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9 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
10 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

11

12 VOLUME II

13

14 Fairbanks, Alaska

15 October 9, 2002

16 9:15 o'clock a.m.

17

18

19 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

20

21 Ronald Sam, Chair

22 Angela Demientieff

23 Benedict Jones

24 Jack Reakoff

25 Michael Stickman

26 Robert Walker

27

28

29 Coordinator; Pete DeMatteo, Polly Wheeler

00056

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 (Fairbanks, Alaska - 10/9/2002)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: It is now 9:15, I'd like to
6 call the Western Interior Council meeting back to order.

7

8 Jack, could you take roll.

9

10 MR. REAKOFF: Ronald Sam.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.

13

14 MR. REAKOFF: Ray Collins. Absent. Jack
15 Reakoff is here. Angela Demientieff.

16

17 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Here.

18

19 MR. REAKOFF: Benedict Jones is.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: He wandered out, he's here.

22

23 MR. REAKOFF:he'll be back in a
24 minute. Carl Morgan. Absent. Robert Walker.

25

26 MR. WALKER: Here.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: Michael Stickman.

29

30 MR. STICKMAN: Here.

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: Emmitt Peters is absent also.
33 We've got six present.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. We've got
36 six Council members present. We have a quorum.

37

38 Before we start on anything, Pete, we had
39 one fisheries proposal that we wanted to take care of early
40 this morning?

41

42 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes, Mr. Chair. For the
43 benefit of those who are with us today that weren't with us
44 yesterday, we've had to jump around the agenda for various
45 reasons but now we're picking up with the agenda in the
46 Council book that's on Page 5. The order of business, like
47 you mentioned was to finish up with fisheries Proposal 03-
48 03, which shouldn't take long and then we can get back to
49 the agenda business that was not taken care of yesterday,
50 if that's okay with the Council.

00057

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this okay with the
2 Council, that we take care of the fisheries proposal first
3 thing this morning?

4
5 (Council nods affirmatively)

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Pete. What tab
8 and what page?

9
10 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is Jerry
11 Berg. It's under Tab D and I'm finding it here, Page 67.
12 It starts on Page 67, Proposal 03-03. And this is
13 concerning a Kuskokwim issue and I realize we don't have
14 any of our Council members from the Kuskokwim but I think
15 this is a fairly straightforward proposal and I'm sure you
16 guys will be able to take care of it just fine.

17
18 Fisheries Proposal 03-03 was submitted by
19 our office, the Office of Subsistence Management and it
20 requests the use of rod and reel to harvest salmon for
21 subsistence before, during and after commercial fishing
22 periods in District 2 and in tributaries that flow into the
23 Kuskokwim River within that district. Currently, Federal
24 regulations are more restrictive than State regulations.
25 And this proposed regulation would expand subsistence
26 harvest opportunities in Federal regulations to align with
27 the current State regulations.

28
29 The Federal jurisdiction in that area
30 basically extends most of the way throughout District 2 up
31 to just up stream of Aniak. That's about 42 miles of the
32 river and falls within the boundary of the Yukon-Delta
33 National Wildlife Refuge.

34
35 The regulatory history of this proposal,
36 which is why it's before you today, subsistence salmon
37 fishing had been restricted before, during and after
38 commercial openings in District 2 by State regulations
39 since 1988. That was when the restrictions first went into
40 place. These restrictions also extended to the tributaries
41 within District 2 and only in District 2 were all the
42 tributaries in that district closed to subsistence salmon
43 fishing by all gear types surrounding commercial openings.
44 In other districts, 1, 4 and 5, within the Kuskokwim area,
45 net and fishwheel fishing in the tributaries within these
46 districts was not affected by the subsistence closures
47 because tributaries are not specifically identified for
48 subsistence closures during commercial openings in those
49 districts. It only was District 2 that the tributaries
50 were closed. And then these regulations were adopted into

00058

1 the Federal Subsistence fishing regulations in October of
2 '99 when we started our fisheries program.

3

4 In the spring of 2000, the Alaska Board of
5 Fisheries approved a regulation to include rod and reel
6 gear as legal subsistence fishing gear in the lower and
7 middle Kuskokwim areas, basically the AVCP region, which
8 you heard a little bit about yesterday. It also extends
9 over to the Yukon, but only within the AVCP region. And
10 that includes all of District 2 and its tributaries.

11

12 Then in the spring of 2001, ADF&G Staff
13 realized that because rod and reel gear had been added to
14 the list of subsistence gear in the middle Kuskokwim area,
15 that State regulations would need to be modified to make
16 the time and gear restrictions around commercial fishing
17 openings more consistent across all districts.

18

19 So in the spring of 2001, the Board of
20 Fisheries made an administrative change within the State
21 regulations that maintained restrictions on net and
22 fishwheel gear around commercial openings in District 2
23 including all the tributaries but allowed subsistence
24 fishing with rod and reel gear. This regulation change
25 took effect in July of 2001. So it's been in effect a
26 little over a year now in State regulation.

27

28 As you know, the Kuskokwim River chinook
29 and chum salmon have been identified as stocks of concern
30 and are being managed according to the Kuskokwim River
31 salmon management rebuilding plan which establishes a
32 subsistence fishing schedule. The intent of the schedule
33 is to provide closed periods during which salmon can pass
34 with reduced fishing pressure to spread subsistence fishing
35 opportunity throughout the drainage and to improve
36 escapement.

37

38 As outlined in the Federal/State interim
39 memorandum of agreement, the Federal Board agreed to use
40 State management plans as the basis for any management
41 actions so long as they provide for subsistence priorities
42 under State and Federal law. So as such, the Federal Board
43 has agreed to the terms of the Kuskokwim River salmon
44 management rebuilding plan.

45

46 Subsistence salmon harvest in District 2
47 are primarily reported by the residents of the four
48 villages of lower and upper Kalskag, Aniak and Chuathbaluk.
49 The average annual subsistence salmon harvest has been
50 almost 24,000 fish for the past 10 years for those four

00059

1 villages. The number of salmon reported harvest by rod and
2 reel in these four villages was 390 salmon in 2000 and 724
3 salmon in 2001. We've only been collecting salmon harvest
4 by gear type for two years which we've got the rod and reel
5 data for. That's approximately two to three and a half
6 percent of the overall salmon harvested by these four
7 villages.

8

9 Kuskokwim River residents have
10 traditionally harvested salmon using rod and reel however
11 the vast majority of salmon harvested in the middle
12 Kuskokwim area are harvested using drift and set gillnets.

13

14 If adopted, this proposal would benefit
15 subsistence fishermen who want to use a rod and reel to
16 harvest a fresh salmon. This regulatory change would align
17 Federal regulations with existing State regulations and
18 would help reduce potential confusion.

19

20 So the preliminary Staff conclusion is to
21 support the proposal. That's all I have. I'd be happy to
22 answer any questions you might have.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jerry. The
27 proposed regulation should read as shown on Page 72, right,
28 you may use rod and reel 24 hours per day, seven days per
29 week unless specifically restricted by this section? Is
30 this the proposed changes on Page 72?

31

32 MR. BERG: Yes, that's correct, Mr. Chair.
33 The wording under the regulation, the bold part by net gear
34 and fishwheel is the exact language used in State
35 regulation and we added that last sentence on there to make
36 it clear that rod and reel was allowed 24 hours a day,
37 seven days a week even during commercial fishing periods
38 before, during and after. So it's exactly like it is in
39 State regulation except for that last sentence. We added
40 that in there to make sure it's clear to people that
41 they're allowed to use that.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. With all the proposals
44 that we support, I think it's within our policy that we
45 support these proposals that provides for any subsistence
46 uses and opportunities that we grant to our people. So
47 without further adieu, the Chair will entertain a motion to
48 adopt Proposal 03-03 as shown on Page 72.

49

50 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: So moved.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Angela, is there a
2 second.

3
4 MR. STICKMAN: Second.

5
6 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Micky Stickman
9 and Jack. Any further -- oh, that's introduction and our
10 motion to adopt, our next item on the agenda, I guess, is
11 ADF&G -- this is the proposal so we have to go through that
12 whole proposal procedure, ADF&G comments.

13
14 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Council
15 members. For the record, my name is Rod Campbell, Alaska
16 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial
17 Fisheries. The Department supports this proposal.

18
19 As Jerry said, it does seek to align State
20 and Federal regulations and it would certainly clarify
21 things for the public. Again, our comments are under Tab
22 D, Page 73, pretty short and sweet but we do support it.

23
24 Thank you, sir.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for ADF&G. If
27 not -- oh, Robert.

28
29 MR. WALKER: Yes, one question. When you
30 speak about District 2, what is the other term for it, is
31 it W2 or something? What does the Alaska Department of
32 Fish and Game use for the word, the letter, do you have a
33 letter there that it's W2 or what do you say when you say
34 District 2.

35
36 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Y.

37
38 MR. WALKER: No, no, Y is Yukon.

39
40 MR. BERG: Yes, that's correct, Mr. Chair,
41 it is District W2, referred to in the State commercial
42 fishing districts.

43
44 MR. WALKER: Okay, thank you for the term.

45
46 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
47 Walker, thank you, that's my understanding. I was looking
48 around for some staff in that area for help on that but I
49 believe that's correct.

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions. If
4 not, do we have Federal, tribal or other agency comments.
5 Seeing none, Fish and Game local advisory committees.
6 Seeing none, summary of written testimony submitted.

7

8 (Pause)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: As far as written public
11 comments I see none shown on Page 73. Public testimony.
12 I didn't get any blue slips or green slips. Seeing none,
13 we do have a motion for Council's deliberation. There's a
14 motion which has been seconded. Further discussion.

15

16 Again, this just provides more subsistence
17 uses in making it align with the State regulations. Jack.

18

19 MR. REAKOFF: The primary species of salmon
20 harvested are chinook and coho then?

21

22 MR. BERG: Actually it would be chinook,
23 chum, coho and some sockeye.

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further discussion. If not,
28 all those in favor signify by saying aye. Again, we are
29 voting on that proposal as shown on Page 72, rod and reel,
30 net gear, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

31

32 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Pete, where
41 does that leave us, back to our original agenda?

42

43 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes, Mr. Chair. This places
44 the Council back on Page 5 of the agenda, Roman Numeral IV
45 under Regional Council business which is under Tab B as in
46 Baker, and it starts off with award for past Regional
47 Council member.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. We asked
50 for a special award for Henry Deacon. I would like to show

00062

1 this to you and I'll just read it.

2

3 Henry Deacon, resident of Grayling, Alaska
4 served honorably as a member of the Western Interior
5 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council since his Secretarial
6 appointment in September 1994 until 2001. An Athabascan
7 Native, Henry exemplifies the tributes of an Athabascan
8 elder and leader, respect, fairness, honesty, caring,
9 sharing and spirituality. His leadership enabled the
10 Western Interior Council to carefully deliberate and
11 provide thoughtful recommendations to the Federal
12 Subsistence Board. It is with great pleasure that the
13 Federal Subsistence Board and the Office of Subsistence
14 Management recognizes Henry Deacon for all of his
15 accomplishments and thank him for his years of service.

16

17 As you know we scheduled our meeting for
18 Holy Cross and at that time we thought Henry would be
19 there, so I want to pass this around and show it to our
20 Council members and I would ask that Robert or Angela
21 deliver this to Henry on our behalf, if you have any social
22 gathering going on down in that area.

23

24 (Pause)

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair's report. It was
27 kind of messed up like our meeting schedule here. Both
28 Harry and Wilde and I looked all over Anchorage for that
29 meeting and we never found it so both of us were absent
30 while we were looking all around town for where that
31 meeting was. It wasn't posted. And so both us missed
32 that Chair's meeting. But we did meet with the Federal
33 Subsistence Board. All of our proposals passed except for
34 the one that is in conflict between YK-Delta and Western
35 Interior which concerns GASH area and the YK residents on
36 moose, that's Proposal 31, it is coming back up on the
37 agenda, I believe. Is that right, Pete?

38

39 MR. DeMATTEO: That is correct.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So with, I think that
42 that moose summit down at Aniak on the 17th and 18th that
43 Randy Rogers is putting together will or should pretty much
44 take care of that issue. But again, we will discuss it
45 briefly and hopefully we'll send them in the right
46 direction. I was talking with Robert and we kind of know
47 where we want to go with this issue.

48

49 My report is brief because with the
50 formation and appointment of both Micky Stickman and

00063

1 Benedict Jones on the coordinating fisheries committee for
2 the Yukon River and Ray Collins and Carl Morgan for the
3 Kuskokwim coordinating fisheries committee I had way less
4 to do and more or less delegated everything out. And I
5 would really like to thank, Jack, personally. As many of
6 you know I was working six days a week, nine hours a day so
7 I wasn't on the phone and I just called to fill in for me,
8 Anchorage, Fairbanks, wherever, teleconference and I would
9 like to thank Jack, personally and recognize him. Thank
10 you, Jack for filling in for me because, like I said, got
11 to earn a living.

12

13 So that pretty much takes care of my
14 Chair's report. I'd like to thank all the members for
15 taking care of business while I wasn't there.

16

17 You know that we've been jumping around the
18 agenda so if the Regional Council members have concerns,
19 now is the time to express them. Benedict, you have
20 Regional Council concerns.

21

22 MR. JONES: All I have is a resolution.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mike.

25

26 MR. JONES: All I have is a resolution from
27 the Koyukuk Tribal Council Resolution 02-29 about extending
28 the driftnetting from Cone Point to the river so that --
29 give more opportunity for the Galena residents to go
30 driftnetting.

31

32 During the fishing period for chinook, we
33 get overcrowded at Koyukuk so we want to give the
34 opportunity for Galena people to fish in their own area
35 because the lack of eddies on the Yukon River for setnets.
36 This proposal, it's not going to increase the harvest,
37 subsistence fishing, it'll be about the same amount but it
38 will cost less for the people from Galena to go down this
39 -- it's three hours travel by boat round-trip, depending on
40 the weather so this gives them -- open up more area for the
41 local -- in the local area.

42

43 That's all I have.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was there any kind of
46 action? I don't know whether we could take any action on
47 this but do you just want to introduce this resolution
48 before us and leave it at that?

49

50 MR. JONES: (Nods affirmatively)

00064

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Thank you, Benedict.
2 We'll take a look at that and see what we can do. Micky.

3

4 MR. STICKMAN: Like Benedict, also I want
5 to support that proposal. Just talking to the people up in
6 Galena, I know there's some really good driftnet spots
7 between Yuki and Galena and then there's a couple just
8 right below Galena. And if it was opened up further they
9 could probably just -- there's some pretty good spots right
10 below Bishop Mountain too, but it -- and like Ben said it
11 would take some pressure off the people that fish across
12 from Koyukuk but it wouldn't increase the harvest because
13 it'd be the same people fishing but they'd just be spread
14 out further along the river.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Micky.
17 Jack.

18

19 MR. REAKOFF: Well, my concerns are we need
20 -- there's a lack of enforcement, like I said last night of
21 Fish and Wildlife Protection is going through a downsizing,
22 the legislature has cut their budget and we've had a lack
23 of Fish and Wildlife Protection enforcement up in that Unit
24 24 and I feel that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Park
25 Service and the BLM are going to have to help out on some
26 of this enforcement problems in certain areas associated.
27 Near Gates of the Arctic Park, on BLM lands and on U.S.
28 Fish and Wildlife areas. These -- without State Fish and
29 Wildlife protection being in the area all the best game
30 regulations in the world can just be thrown right out the
31 window. So this is a concern of mine.

32

33 There's another concern that I have, is the
34 escalating guiding on State and Bureau of Land Management
35 lands. I feel that the BLM should seriously consider guide
36 areas like the Refuges have and the Park Service on the
37 Preserve lands. This unchecked guiding, the State Game
38 Board called for or wrote a letter to the legislature
39 requesting a commercial services board to control the
40 numbers of guides on State and Bureau of Land Management
41 lands, that's not going to happen. And I thin the Bureau
42 of Land Management is going to have to come up with a guide
43 selection process to limit the numbers of guides on Bureau
44 of Land Management lands. This is getting to be an
45 escalating problem in the Western Interior.

46

47 I still feel that there's need for a joint
48 project with the State of Alaska, Park Service and U.S.
49 Fish and Wildlife and BLM for a telemetry study for moose
50 from the Dalton Highway Corridor to along the south slope

00065

1 of the Brooks Range. There's escalating air taxi
2 operations utilizing -- heavily utilizing a moose resource
3 that is known of what the population is and where it goes.
4 Some of the numbers are relying on a heavy usage of Park
5 moose but we don't know if they move in and out of the
6 Park. We don't know where these moose are going. So I
7 feel that this telemetry project would be very beneficial
8 to management of moose as moose populations have been
9 descending in Unit 24.

10

11 I'm also very concerned with the low
12 percentage of female chinook salmon as we seen yesterday
13 reaching the spawning grounds. And then a reevaluation of
14 the escapement goals that with the low numbers of females
15 that have reached spawning grounds I'm concerned that those
16 escapement numbers are not adequate, especially returning
17 from a suppressed population of the last five years.

18

19 So those are my concerns right now. Thank
20 you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Robert.

23

24 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good
25 morning.

26

27 Our concerns in 21(E) is about the same as
28 what Jack said, moose, fish, guides, we're getting more and
29 more pressure from outside intervention here from as far
30 away as Anchorage. We got people coming up from Bethel
31 landing outside our controlled use area in the lakes. And
32 one of the people said that the Fish and Game does not come
33 and check on them when they land outside the controlled use
34 area, to see how many moose have been taken or did they
35 throw the meat away or what, you know, wanton waste is one
36 of our issues and always will be.

37

38 We're having a tribal meeting in Holy
39 Cross, Anvik, Grayling and Shageluk when we get home to
40 discuss some of these issues and they will be presented at
41 the next meeting that we have here.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. Angela.

46

47 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 Good morning everybody.

49

50 All of the above are my concerns, too. But

00066

1 the other thing I have is the pike study, nobody seems to
2 know what happened to that over at Reindeer Lake this
3 summer. They were there for a month. And the elders are
4 still complaining about the pike, that there is not as many
5 as there used to be.

6

7 And the other thing is all the wanton waste
8 we've seen. My husband and my two brothers-in-laws were
9 approached by the State Trooper or Fish and Game guy in
10 Holy Cross and told that they killed a cow during the bull
11 season. Because they were seen entering our community
12 without horns. So the trooper came and roused them all up
13 and then he -- they told them that they got a bull and they
14 had to show him on a map exactly where it was and they flew
15 up there and there was those horns and he wanted to know
16 why didn't you take the horns, he said, what for, we don't
17 eat those, we just left them. And yet, here we see a lot
18 of moose with no heads and just the whole carcass laying
19 along the shoreline where the outsiders are coming in and
20 killing our moose off and, yet, our guys are being targeted
21 because they don't bring their horns home and they bring
22 the whole moose home to the village and distribute it among
23 the older people.

24

25 That's a big concern of ours. They're not
26 being fair to our own people but out of towners or out of
27 the area people come in and just kill moose as they wish.
28 And people are getting angry, there's a lot of anxiety down
29 there because they were all ready to meet us in Holy Cross
30 when we were scheduled to be there. And a lot of people
31 wanted to testify then.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angela. My main
36 concern this time is getting this meeting started and
37 concluded in totality. You know, we canceled our meeting
38 down at Holy Cross and that just kind of compressed our
39 schedule. We had to meet here with Eastern Interior to
40 share Staff with Federal and State Staff. But apparently
41 we're going along quite well.

42

43 At this time I would direct OSM to address
44 the issue of the Koyukuk Resolution 02-29 through
45 correspondence with the Koyukuk Tribal Council and OSM and
46 the State, see what we can do about this issue and get it
47 on record at this -- this was a non-action item but
48 introduced here at our Western Interior meeting.

49

50 MR. DeMATTEO: Okay, Mr. Chair. When Vince

00067

1 returns on the 14th, I'll work with him to see what sort of
2 correspondence can be developed addressing your wishes.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, okay, that would be
5 fine. Ida, did you have something.

6

7 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
8 Committee member. Perhaps just to ask Benedict, if Koyukuk
9 intended to present this resolution to generate a proposal
10 and is it meant to be a proposal and if so, to direct the
11 office to draft a proposal and check back with them to make
12 sure that that is their intention.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. Benedict.
15 Micky. Were you going to generate a proposal through this
16 resolution to address that issue?

17

18 MR. JONES: Yes, we do. The other, we
19 tried -- right now we're trying to get a resolution from
20 all the four village, Ruby, Galena and Nulato, Kaltag,
21 Koyukuk to give a similar resolution to give us more
22 support for this extension.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that answer your
25 question, Ida, that they are trying to generate one with
26 agreement with the four villages.

27

28 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
29 it does. And it also needs to clarify to Koyukuk, if this
30 is State waters they need to submit their proposal to the
31 State Board of Fish.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. I think I
34 directed Staff to pursue this issue and give them all the
35 avenues to operate and work on this issue. And thanks,
36 again.

37

38 Micky, you had something.

39

40 MR. STICKMAN: No, actually I think, you
41 know, I think it would be important for us to act on it,
42 you know, I think it needs the support of the Council for
43 us to act on it. I think we should act on it to get
44 results.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: So about all we can do at
47 this time, I believe, is just take a -- how would we handle
48 this, just make a motion in support of this Koyukuk
49 resolution 02-29.

50

00068

1 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, you can do that
2 on the record, you can support it. It's not time yet to
3 submit a proposal for fisheries but what we can do through
4 the correspondence that you mentioned, the Council can show
5 its support to Koyukuk and then when it comes time for call
6 for proposals for fisheries, you can either submit one from
7 the Council or it can be done through the village of
8 Koyukuk or two separate proposals can be done for that
9 matter.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. At this
12 time the Chair will entertain a motion in support of
13 Koyukuk Resolution 02-29 in generating a proposal with the
14 understanding that it will go through all four or five
15 villages in that region and this proposal will come up
16 before us in the future. Is there a motion to that effect?

17

18 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack. Further
25 discussion. If not, all those in favor of the motion in
26 support of Koyukuk Resolution 02-29 signify by saying aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

31

32 (No opposing votes)

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Again,
35 we're just in support at this time to hopefully generate
36 the proposal that will come before us.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 Next on the agenda is review and adoption
41 of agenda but I think that's been thrown out pretty much.
42 So if it's okay with the Council I would like to just
43 continue because we pretty much have thrown out the agenda.

44

45 Next on the agenda is the approval of
46 minutes from the winter meeting on March 19th in McGrath.

47

48 The Chair will entertain a motion to adopt
49 the minutes.

50

00069

1 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

4

5 MR. WALKER: Second.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Robert. So how
8 do you want to do this, do you just want to go through it,
9 a couple minutes or do you want to read it out loud? Let's
10 just go through it.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions or corrections
15 just go ahead and state them. Any corrections. Additions.
16 We've had ample time to read this as this was sent out
17 about two or three months ago.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Call for the question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angela.

24

25 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Call for the question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: The question has been
28 called. All those in favor of adopting the minutes signify
29 by saying aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Summary of
38 correspondence received and sent. This is under Tab C.
39 Just going through this list, I think we all got a copy of
40 these correspondence because I think I get a copy of
41 everyone -- everything here. Questions. Briefly
42 summarize, Pete, if you can.

43

44 MR. DeMATTEO: Yeah, Mr. Chair.
45 Correspondences received and sent for the Council since
46 March of 2002.

47

48 Vince Mathews letter August 16th on
49 temporary staff changes.

50

00070

1 Mitch Demientieff letter August 5,
2 responding to 2001 Annual report.

3
4 Mitch Demientieff letter of July 19th, .805
5 letter on wildlife proposal actions.

6
7 Vince Mathews letter July 19th to Yukon
8 River Coordinating Fisheries Committee members.

9
10 Russ Holder letter July 15 to Ivan M. Ivan
11 of AVCP.

12
13 Vince Mathews letter June 17th to Yukon
14 River Coordinating Fisheries Committee.

15
16 Vince Mathews letter April 25 Yukon River
17 salmon fisheries salmon schedule.

18
19 Vince Mathews letter April 10 a cover
20 letter for fisheries information.

21
22 And those are the correspondences that were
23 received. Correspondences sent.

24
25 Letter to GASH communities about meeting in
26 Holy Cross.

27
28 Letter to village, tribal agencies and
29 others sharing the draft fall agenda.

30
31 Letter to Mitch Demientieff, Federal
32 Subsistence Board Chair, the revised 2001 annual report.

33
34 Letter to Mitch Demientieff, Federal
35 Subsistence Board Chair, 2001 annual report.

36
37 Joint letter with Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta and
38 Eastern Interior to the North Pacific Fisheries Management
39 Council.

40
41 Letter to Western Interior Region village
42 councils, tribal councils and local advisory committees.

43
44 And this concludes the report summary.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Pete.
47 Thank you, Pete. Next item on the agenda, subsistence
48 fisheries, we went through all the proposals dealing with
49 fisheries both yesterday and this morning, right?

50

00071

1 MR. DeMATTEO: That is correct, Mr. Chair.
2 This brings us up to organization reports which is on Page
3 7 of the agenda in your Council books, Roman Numeral XI,
4 organization reports, briefings on timely subsistence
5 issues, Tab J in the book. I believe we did some of this
6 yesterday but I don't think all of it.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Well, just for my and the
9 Council's information, we did the proposals, we did the
10 post-season management salmon fisheries, we did the
11 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program last night. Was
12 there anything on North Pacific management issues?

13
14 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes, Mr. Chair. Only real
15 briefly that there's going to be a meeting covering this --
16 give me one second and I'll get the date for you, but why
17 don't you go on with what you're reading and I'll dig that
18 up.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I think it's next
21 month sometime and I believe it is with Eastern Interior
22 and North Pacific Fisheries. For the Council information,
23 I believe we invited Della Trumble out at the Kodiak area
24 because we had some problems, we had some disagreements
25 with that Council on Area M. So I think she was invited to
26 this meeting. At this time do we have anyone slated to
27 attend that meeting?

28
29 MR. DeMATTEO: No, I think part of this
30 meeting is that the Council is supposed to select two
31 representatives to attend that meeting and also the date
32 for that meeting is November 6th and 7th.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: As it stands, I think both
35 Gerald and I are slated to attend, right, because we're
36 meeting with -- was that right?

37
38 MR. DeMATTEO: Correct. Right. The Chairs
39 are supposed to attend.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we have to select one
42 more or should we appoint one more or what?

43
44 MR. DeMATTEO: I'll ask other Staff. The
45 North Pacific Management Council meeting, November 6 and 7,
46 is it just for the Chairs only or Chair and his designee?

47
48 MR. RIVARD: Good morning everybody. Don
49 Rivard, Office of Subsistence Management. The meeting with
50 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council is just with

00072

1 the four Chairs and the Staff of the other Council, the
2 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

3

4 MR. DeMATTEO: Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for that
7 clarification. I just wanted to know if we could ask for
8 more attendees from each region or is it too late?

9

10 MR. RIVARD: Well, I can ask but the idea
11 on this initial meeting was to just limit it to a fairly
12 small number of people. There won't be hardly -- I don't
13 think there's going to be many other folks there, just
14 basically was designed for the four Council Chairs along
15 with the North Pacific Fisheries Management Staff.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. This is for
18 the Council's information. Was there any questions on
19 that? No. If not, that takes care North Pacific
20 Fisheries. Customary trade regulatory language, we took
21 care of that yesterday. Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy
22 Cross topics. We originally scheduled that for an evening
23 session down at Holy Cross but I think we pretty much took
24 care of that last night. And again, for the public's
25 information we do have a follow-up meeting on this on the
26 17th, 18th and 19th with Randy Rogers and the planning
27 efforts for the GASH area.

28

29 We already appointed Robert Walker, Angela
30 Demientieff, Carl Morgan and Ray Collins as our designated
31 attendees for this meeting. So that's taken care of pretty
32 much, isn't it?

33

34 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Okay, we will finish
37 today.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Appointments.

42

43 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, BLM Staff just
44 pointed out that the correct dates for that meeting are
45 October 15th through the 17th, just so everyone's tracking.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks Jeff Denton.
48 But we did cover this item, right, Item VII?

49

50 MR. DeMATTEO: That is correct.

00073

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next on our agenda, Item
2 VIII, appointments.

3
4 MR. DeMATTEO: Appointments, VIII, that
5 would be the next on the agenda and it would put us up,
6 after that with agency reports.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: And we wanted to cover Item
9 IX, wildlife topics and proposals this afternoon, and the
10 reasoning behind this, please?

11
12 MR. DeMATTEO: It would be best if we could
13 finish up with agency reports this morning and then do
14 wildlife topics right after lunch.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that fine with the
17 Council.

18
19 (Council nods affirmatively)

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Go ahead, agency
22 reports. What items are on that?

23
24 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, as we mentioned
25 Roman Numeral VIII appointments, it would probably be best
26 to finish that up before we move on to agency reports and
27 that's Roman Numeral VIII on Page 6.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are we jumping around again?

30
31 MR. DeMATTEO: No. No, we're just -- as we
32 mentioned this morning, we would try to pick up in
33 succession of where we left off and move progressively
34 through the agenda. So the next thing on the agenda is
35 appointments, Roman Numeral VIII.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's what I was going
38 on. Gates of the Arctic.

39
40 MR. DeMATTEO: Gates of the Arctic
41 Subsistence Resource Commission, we have down here National
42 Park Service Staff. At the time when Vince put this agenda
43 together, Park Service did not select anyone to address
44 this but it looks like we have someone here today, Fred
45 Anderson.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, go ahead.

48
49 MR. ANDERSON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.
50 We have no report, per se, but I was asked to advise your

00074

1 group that early next month the Park Service will begin its
2 back country and wilderness planning initiative, similar to
3 what's been underway for Denali for the last several
4 months, a year or more possibly.

5

6 Typically the Subsistence Resource
7 Commission folks of which Jack Reakoff is a member are
8 heavily involved in that and I don't know, I can't speak
9 for Jack, we've not talked about this but I would hope that
10 he's going to be involved in that this year and maybe again
11 serve as your representative, your eyes and ears and voice
12 in that process. How does that sound, Jack? There will be
13 a public meeting, the first of several public meetings on
14 this issue beginning on November 7th here in Fairbanks.
15 There will also be meetings in Anchorage and one other
16 location, I think in Alaska as well as some village
17 meetings later in the spring or possibly in the fall, I'm
18 not sure what the scheduling -- I don't think they've been
19 scheduled yet.

20

21 But the first one of those is November 7th
22 at the Noel Wein Library.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Do we have to
25 appoint anyone or is his term still good?

26

27 MR. ANDERSON: I don't believe an
28 appointment is necessary.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Anderson.
31 The next item on the agenda is B, Kuskokwim/Yukon
32 Coordinating Fisheries Committee members. Do you know what
33 that consists of or do we just reappoint Carl Morgan and
34 Ray Collins?

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair, I believe that
39 item is just for you to reaffirm who you would like to
40 represent your Council on that committee.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: As the Council is fully
43 aware, that we only have two from the Kuskokwim area, that
44 is Ray Collins and Carl Morgan. They volunteered to serve
45 as the coordinating fisheries committee members, so at this
46 time the Chair will entertain a motion to reappoint them.

47

48 MR. WALKER: I'll move.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Robert. Is there

00075

1 a second.

2

3 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Angela. This
6 motion is just for reappointing Ray Collins and Carl Morgan
7 to serve on the Kuskokwim Coordinating Fisheries Committee.

8

9 MR. STICKMAN: Call for the question.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called. All
12 those in favor signify by saying aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

17

18 (No opposing votes)

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Do we have
21 to reappoint the Yukon River Fisheries Coordinating -- at
22 this time, we have Benedict Jones from Koyukuk and Micky
23 Stickman from Nulato serving on the Yukon River
24 Coordinating Fisheries Committee along with Gerald Nicholia
25 and one other person from Eastern and two from YK-Delta.
26 At this time the Chair will -- the Chair would like to know
27 if you are willing to serve again or -- Micky.

28

29 MR. STICKMAN: Actually, since me and Ben
30 are so close together on the river, we're only 18 miles
31 apart, I was thinking maybe it would be a good idea from
32 someone from the lower river like Robert or Angela to take
33 one of the coordinating fish committee appointments if it
34 would be okay with either one of them.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. I think
37 that's a very astute observation and I would fully support
38 that if one of you are willing to serve.

39

40 MR. WALKER: Apparently it seems like I got
41 the position because Angela doesn't want it.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. WALKER: Yes, I will take it, thank
46 you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. At this
49 time the Chair will entertain a motion to appoint Robert
50 Walker of Anvik and Benedict Jones of Koyukuk.

00076

1 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

2

3 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved and
6 seconded. And, again, I'd like to thank Micky for that
7 observation and bringing it out and putting it out on the
8 floor astutely. Thank you, Micky.

9

10 All those in favor of the motion signify by
11 saying aye.

12

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

16

17 (No opposing votes)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Resource
20 planning groups, Western Arctic, is there an appointment
21 coming up?

22

23 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, I believe Vince
24 put this there as sort of recognition that Benedict does
25 sit on that committee. I think we briefly touched on this
26 last night when we were talking about planning efforts.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Benedict how long does
29 this term last, do you know?

30

31 MR. JONES: I was just appointed through
32 the middle Yukon Advisory Board so I wasn't appointed by
33 the Western Interior, but I think it's three years and this
34 is my second year on the appointment.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks, Benedict for
37 that clarification. I think that Polluck Simon was
38 appointed by the Koyukuk River Advisory -- okay. Okay,
39 there's no action needed there.

40

41 The next item is agency reports; is that
42 correct, Pete?

43

44 MR. DeMATTEO: That's correct, Mr. Chair.
45 So far in agency reports, we've taken care of Item B,
46 review of Regional Council composition, compliance with
47 FACA; statewide rural determination and the Partners
48 Program. So that leaves Native organizations, if there's
49 anybody here today you may want to recognize them at this
50 time.

00077

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: What item are we on then, I
2 mean on the agenda?

3
4 MR. DeMATTEO: On Page 7 in the book.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

7
8 MR. DeMATTEO: Roman Numeral XI,
9 organization reports.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. This is under Tab J.
12 I saw a few members out there, Native organizations,
13 regional, tribal. If not -- okay, we have Mike Smith,
14 Tanana Chiefs.

15
16 MR. SMITH: Yeah, my name is Mike Smith,
17 Tanana Chiefs and I've recently taken over the position of
18 subsistence resource coordinator for Tanana Chiefs
19 Conference. Part of what I would like to do in that
20 position though is to work more closely with the Advisory
21 Councils, both the State and Federal levels. So I mean we
22 have some joint projects with Fish and Wildlife Service.
23 We talked a little bit last night about that on the
24 Partnership and Monitoring program. I also have some
25 cooperative agreements going on with Fish and Wildlife
26 Service for non-salmon species surveys to be done down in
27 the GASH villages and we're completing one for the Koyukuk
28 River villages right now.

29
30 Additionally, in regards to big game, I'm
31 working on trying to work out a proposal with Fish and Game
32 right now to do a survey down in the GASH villages on big
33 game harvest takes. It would be kind of good in the sense
34 that they did a comprehensive one about 10 years ago from
35 what I understand and then if we did another one now we'd
36 have a good 10 year window of harvest information available
37 to us down there.

38
39 Once again, you met our fish biologist who
40 has recently come on. She -- her charge is to provide as
41 much information to the villages and educational
42 opportunities. I look forward to working with some people
43 in the BIA on a possible subsistence education initiative
44 as well.

45
46 Also, I sit on the -- with -- I also sit,
47 currently on the Alaska Migratory Bird Council meeting,
48 which is a new Council that's just recently been formed in
49 the last year or so. Micky sits on the Interior Regional
50 Advisory Council for that for the Migratory Bird Council.

00078

1 Although they do not operate under ANILCA, the Migratory
2 Bird Councils operate under their own statutes and treaties
3 and stuff with foreign countries, I think that we should
4 work very closely with the Regional Advisory Councils and
5 getting their input into the regulatory process for
6 migratory birds.

7

8 I look forward to working with the moose
9 management people coming out to the Aniak summit.
10 Unfortunately I can't be in two places at once and I won't
11 be able to make the Aniak meeting because I have a
12 Migratory Bird Council meeting in Anchorage at that same
13 time. But I have offered my assistance to Fish and Game
14 and hoping to get on the planning commission for that
15 thing. It's my understanding that during the course of the
16 summit there will be a planning committee developed and I
17 would hope to get on that as well.

18

19 But once again, I look forward to working
20 with you folks and I think I'll be seeing lots of you
21 because I'll be coming to all your meetings and I'll be
22 staying through them all and if there's anything we at
23 Tanana Chiefs can do or help or offer any advice or
24 direction, feel free to call.

25

26 With that, I guess, that's it. Thank you,
27 Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike. How long
30 have you been on board at Tanana Chiefs?

31

32 MR. SMITH: Well, this is my second
33 employment opportunity at Tanana Chiefs. I was there once
34 before as a village government specialist. Then I went to
35 Juneau and worked in Juneau and I spent five or six years
36 working the legislative process in Juneau, which offers an
37 incredible insight into the State bureaucracy, obviously.
38 But right now I've just been on board now as the fish and
39 wildlife coordinator for just a couple months now and just
40 kind of getting up to speed and getting my feet wet again.
41 But hopefully I'm a fast learner and I'll be able to pick
42 up relatively quickly.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike. Any
45 questions for Mike, Tanana Chiefs. If not, welcome aboard.

46

47 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next on our agenda, Alaska
50 Department of Fish and Game, ADF&G reports. I see Fred

00079

1 Bue.

2

3 MR. BUE: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. My
4 name is Fred Bue, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
5 Commercial Fisheries Division. I really don't have a lot
6 to -- as far as reports. I just wanted to point out some
7 events or time lines of upcoming meetings, I just wanted
8 you to be aware of.

9

10 As in discussions yesterday, you heard that
11 there are some agenda change requests for the Board of Fish
12 and I just wanted to point those out, one had to do with
13 the windows scheduling fishing period coming up. And then
14 there's also another one with hook and line as subsistence
15 gear, fishing time lines in the lower Yukon, AVCP section.
16 Those are just ACR requests at this time. The Board of
17 Fish will deal with them in the workshop, I believe it's
18 next week and they'll decide if they'll go further and
19 actually be taken up out of session, out of the normal
20 regulatory session.

21

22 Also coming up we have a JTC meeting later
23 this month. Part of that is our strategic planning process
24 that we're going through and developing a plan for
25 prioritizing research on the Yukon for both chinook and
26 chum salmon. Trying to categorize or put a hierarchial
27 connotations to what we think is important research, what
28 data gaps we have and such and then so as we get money in
29 the future, where we can use that money best to fill some
30 of these gaps.

31

32 So that's a process already in place.
33 There will be a Yukon River panel meeting, US/Canada panel
34 meeting November -- I believe it's the 18th in Anchorage
35 and a lot of the discussions, political discussions back
36 and forth between Canada, and it's a good place to observe
37 actions that are taking place.

38

39 Also I wanted to point out the proposal
40 deadline is April 10th as it is every year for proposals to
41 the State Fisheries. So if you have ideas and things, this
42 RAC or the Federal process wants to submit a proposal, that
43 would be the deadline for that.

44

45 That's all for now, Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Fred. Any
48 questions for Fred. If not, thank you. Bureau of Land
49 Management. Okay, state your name for the record, thank
50 you.

00080

1 MR. BURR: Yeah, Ron, this is John Burr
2 with Sportfish Division, Fish and Game. Not quite done
3 with the State yet.

4
5 On the back table there are three handouts
6 that I put together that have to do with sportfisheries.
7 There's one for the middle Kuskokwim and upper Kuskokwim,
8 there's another one that summarizes the Yukon salmon
9 fisheries this year and then there's a third one that
10 summarizes the work that we did in the lower Innoko there
11 on Reindeer Lake near Holy Cross.

12
13 I'd be glad to make sure you get a copy of
14 those during the break if you don't already have them. I
15 assumed that you'd already picked those up.

16
17 On the Kuskokwim River this summer, we had
18 a decreased use of salmon by sportfisheries, part of that
19 was the rod and reel opportunity that exists for all State
20 residents in that area. Also, at least, two of the people
21 that have been working as fish guides in the area, local
22 people, chose not to take any clients during the king
23 salmon season, chinook season because of the uncertainty of
24 potential emergency orders and then word that had gotten
25 out for their potential clients that there may or may not
26 be an opportunity to fish for king salmon under
27 sportfishing regulations. So we had quite a bit less
28 activity on the Kuskokwim side this year during the salmon
29 season than we have had in the last few years.

30
31 Similarly, over on the Yukon side, there's
32 relatively little effort by the sportfishery that's
33 directed towards either chinook or chum salmon. There's,
34 again, a small fishery for coho salmon. All that
35 information is summarized in those handouts.

36
37 The project that we did in the Innoko on
38 northern pike this summer was one that we funded through
39 the State agency. We had sought funding for a much larger
40 project through OSM but that project was not supported,
41 another similar project up in the Yukon Flats was selected
42 instead.

43
44 Basically what we did in the Innoko this
45 year is we sampled the number of pike, put radio tags in 60
46 of them and have begun following those radio tagged fish
47 around. Results are pretty preliminary at this point.
48 Many of the fish that were tagged in the Reindeer Lake area
49 stayed within the study area for part of the summer. We
50 had some fish that left immediately and we had some fish

00081

1 that left somewhat later and remained outside the area. We
2 also documented some pretty large movements, movements of
3 50 or 60 miles of individual fish over the -- between
4 tracking events. Again, this is fairly early. A lot of
5 the analysis of those movements has not been -- analysis
6 has not been completed.

7

8 The fish that we captured, we captured
9 another 500 or so pike and all of this happened in early
10 June. We saw -- we had good catch rates once the water
11 level went down. Initially the water was very high and it
12 was tough to catch fish. But we saw good numbers of fish
13 and some very large fish.

14

15 We're going to continue to track these pike
16 throughout this winter and through the next season,
17 certainly during spawning season. One of the questions we
18 hope to ask -- answer is whether or not these fish respond
19 -- are returning to the same spawning sites from year to
20 year.

21

22 We also plan to be tracking these fish
23 during the winter, partially to determine where they're
24 overwintering and then also it will give us an opportunity
25 to understand where people are subsistence fishing through
26 the ice and where the people that are participating in that
27 fishery are coming from. And I should say that part of
28 that project is partially funded with some OSM funding
29 that's part of a harvest survey study that the Division of
30 Subsistence is conducting.

31

32 We had planned to give detailed reports
33 prior to the Western Interior meeting down in Holy Cross
34 and had been invited also to go to Shageluk and had
35 scheduled to do that the day before the meeting but when
36 the meeting was canceled we've had to postpone that trip.
37 It's our intention to go down there later on this winter or
38 very early in the spring to Shageluk and to Holy Cross to
39 provide the communities and the schools with results of our
40 study and we'll just have to find out what schedule works
41 for the local people.

42

43 Anyway, that's all I have to say and again,
44 I apologize for the fact that these handouts didn't get in
45 your hands already.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Are you
48 attending that summit at Aniak concerning all the GASH area
49 problems that we have, are you planning to attend?

50

00082

1 MR. BURR: Mr. Chairman, I had not intended
2 to attend that meeting because it was my understanding that
3 the focus of that meeting was moose management. But if I'm
4 mistaken then I'd be happy to try to work that in. I guess
5 my inclination would be to go at a time when people wanted
6 to talk about fish more specifically because it's my guess
7 that moose is probably going to be the primary topic of
8 concern during that meeting.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I would then ask you
11 to find out if they are covering the fish issues. It think
12 this is one of the major concerns with the user conflict in
13 this area. So if they are covering fish, I would ask that
14 you do your best to attend.

15

16 MR. BURR: I'll certainly will if that's
17 the desire.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions. Benedict.

20

21 MR. JONES: Yeah, when you're non-species
22 fish tagging, what kind of tag are you using, radio-
23 telemetry or tags?

24

25 MR. BURR: For those fish that we tagged in
26 the Innoko area there by Holy Cross we put out small
27 plastic tags in about 500 northern pike and then we
28 additionally put out about 60 radio tags and those are
29 surgically implanted in the northern pike.

30

31 One other thing I wanted to point out is
32 that we've had a number of tag returns from residents of
33 Shageluk and Holy Cross over the last couple of seasons.
34 In fact, one of the radio tags was caught by a resident of
35 Holy Cross and that tag was mailed back to us and we
36 certainly appreciate that. I just wanted to emphasize that
37 at every opportunity, that return of the tag numbers, at
38 least, for those fish that are harvested is really very
39 helpful and we need -- ideally we would like to know, not
40 only when the fish was caught but a reasonably close idea
41 of where the fish was caught.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions. If
44 not -- Ida Hildebrand, you had your hand up?

45

46 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 Perhaps, I'm sorry, John, do you know anything about the
48 fish policy on pike -- or not pike, excuse me, trout that's
49 being developed by the State?

50

00083

1 MR. BURR: I'm not prepared to speak to
2 that but there is somebody here, I believe that would be
3 happy to, would you like to talk about that?

4
5 MR. VINCENT-LANG: Hi. I'm Doug Vincent-
6 Lang with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Board is
7 going to deliberate on a sustainable wild trout management
8 policy at their October meeting in Anchorage. The basic
9 elements of the sustainable wild trout policy is to assure
10 that wild trout stocks in the State of Alaska have equal
11 protection as do salmon stocks in the State of Alaska.

12
13 Basically what the Board has done is
14 directed a task force over the last year to work on the
15 sustainable salmon policy and amend that policy to deal
16 with wild trout. Basically so that the Board has the tools
17 in front of it to assure for sustainable trout populations
18 for generations to come. Basic elements of that is that
19 when the Board deliberates on a wild trout proposal in
20 front of them they'll have to consider the stock status of
21 the trout and if, in fact, the status of the trout is
22 considered to be depressed for a variety of reasons, it
23 gives them tools on which to assure that that stock is
24 rebuilt over time. It also indexes wild trout to be
25 something other than maximum sustained yield and it bases
26 it on the index for a goal to be optimal sustained yield
27 and benefits.

28
29 But in essence, the policy is modeled very
30 similarly after the sustainable salmon policy to assure
31 that over generations to come of these trout populations,
32 that they'll be sustained for years to come.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions.
35 Angela.

36
37 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 You have 500 pikes running around with these tags, where
39 are those tags. And then on your 60 pike, the radio tags,
40 how do we know if we catch a pike that it has a radio
41 inside, are they marked differently? And if they are, how
42 long can a fish live after you've taken it out of the water
43 and stuck that radio into its stomach, how can it live,
44 forever or can it just last a couple months, seven months,
45 we want to know?

46
47 MR. BURR: Thank you for the questions,
48 Angela. The first question has to do with the little flow
49 tags that we put in the 500 fish. We're hoping to have
50 those tags, over time show back up in subsistence

00084

1 fisheries, in sportfish harvests and then in sampling that
2 we conduct ourselves and so those -- the small plastic tags
3 will stay in the pike and in the population until they're
4 recaptured, either by us or by subsistence fishermen.
5

6 The radio tags that we've put in are
7 surgically implanted and they are also flow tagged, they
8 also have a plastic tag up on next to the dorsal fin, on
9 this fin on the back, but the radio tagged fish are pretty
10 easily described because first off they're surgically
11 implanted. We make a small incision in the belly and
12 there's a trailing wire that's about a foot long that comes
13 out the back of the fish. Others -- as far as how long
14 these fish live, we've got fish that were tagged in the
15 same way up in the Yukon Flats part of a project we're
16 doing up there with Steven's Village and we have recaptured
17 pike that were tagged in that way four years, the scars --
18 they have some scar tissue where the surgery was done but
19 there's no other indication that these fish are affected by
20 these tags at all.

21
22 Again, we are selecting relatively larger
23 sized northern pike to do this to, we're enesthesizing the
24 fish, keeping them in water while we're doing the surgery
25 and then we don't let them go until they have clearly
26 revived.

27
28 So we have pretty good feeling or evidence
29 that these fish can put up with this kind of abuse and the
30 information that we get from these radio tags is really
31 very valuable. But again, it's a relatively small number,
32 we did a total of 60 fish there in the Holy Cross area.
33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions. If
35 not, do we have anymore ADF&G Division.
36

37 MR. BOUDREAU: This is Toby Boudreau from
38 the McGrath area and I just wanted to give you guys an
39 update on the mortality study that -- the calf mortality
40 study we've been doing that we talked about when you folks
41 had your last meeting in McGrath and the little bit of
42 information on the registration hunt results from this past
43 fall.

44
45 As far as the mortality study goes, as of
46 last year it hadn't been a complete year that the calves
47 had lived -- or died actually and the results as of May
48 were that 75 percent of the calves had died over the whole
49 entire year. Mortality broke out, basically 37 percent to
50 black bears, 35 percent to grizzly bears and then 28 to

00085

1 wolves, 28 percent to wolves.

2

3 Between July and a couple weeks ago, we
4 also lost about half the yearlings that were left that were
5 radio-collared as calves. Mostly to wolves but a few to
6 black bears over the summer and actually a couple to
7 hunters, took the yearling bulls. In fact, two were taken
8 by hunters and one died during hunting season but we don't
9 know what killed it, it died a couple miles off the river
10 and we haven't had a helicopter to get in there and
11 investigate that mortality. But it could have been a
12 natural mortality. But it was a bull, it was a yearling
13 bull.

14

15 This May we also collared, we again
16 repeated the mortality study, this time we collared 81
17 calves, last year we collared only 66. So far, to date, 64
18 percent of those are dead. If you compare that to last
19 years mortality study to about October 1st, that's real
20 similar, it was like 65 percent the year before. So we
21 lost about nine or 10 percent over the winter.

22

23 This year the distribution's a little bit
24 different. Black bears took 31 percent so far, grizzly
25 bears took 23 percent which is down from 35 percent.
26 That's partially due to the fact that we altered the
27 distribution of where we put the collars out. Last year we
28 had an area that was predominately grizzly bear mortality
29 and we did not put those collars out in that area this
30 year. And then another big change was that wolf mortality
31 really increased this year, which it was up to 40 -- it's
32 up to 42 percent of the calves that died were taken by
33 wolves this summer which is 28 percent for last year,
34 entire. So that's quite a bit of difference. We don't
35 really have any good reasons why as of yet that there was
36 a big change in the percentage that were taken by wolves
37 and in most other studies like the one done in the Nowitna
38 and Koyukuk Refuges, wolf predation was a fairly minimal
39 proportion of what died.

40

41 We also have four percent of unknown
42 mortality. One we honestly don't have an idea what it --
43 it consists of two calves, one we don't know what it died
44 from and the other one has yet to be investigated. I think
45 it was picked up yesterday actually.

46

47 As a part of the -- as a spin-off of this
48 mortality study we also collared 20 black bears with GPS
49 collars and we had a couple collar failures, meaning they
50 don't work anymore. And we also had three of those bears

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1 were killed. One female was killed by another male. One
2 was killed by wolves, a female with two yearlings was
3 killed by wolves and eaten and then the third one, it's
4 unknown what actually caused its demise. As part of that
5 black bear study we're looking at genetic IDs of those
6 bears and comparing those to the kill sites where we can
7 collect hair samples from the kill sites that had black
8 bears involved in it. And we've got a graduate student
9 from Penn State University working on that and it should be
10 some pretty interesting results as to who done it. We
11 actually caught some of our black bears that had radio
12 collars on them, we actually found them eating collared
13 moose calves, so we do know that black bears eat moose
14 calves.

15
16 And another thing we're going to be looking
17 at is the sex ratio of what black bears who were doing the
18 deed, per se, I know that in another study in Yukon Flats
19 it was found that it was predominately male black bears but
20 we're going to test the hair samples with genetics which
21 can provide ID to sex and also we've collared equal -- or
22 we've tried to collar equal proportions of females and
23 males. When we download those GPS collars this spring
24 we'll be able to look at activity patterns relative to
25 locations of the calves that died and see if we can also
26 correlate any gender specific mortalities.

27
28 To move on to the registration hunt results
29 for this year for 19(D) around McGrath. We gave out just
30 about the same number of permits. Last year we distributed
31 289, this year it was 272. I think some of that reduction,
32 it's just about six percent was probably due to the 10 year
33 old rule now that you have to be at least 10 to get a
34 registration permit for big game. So pretty much the same
35 number. The harvest did go up. Last year it was 65 moose
36 reported and so far we've had 82 reported this year.

37
38 Why is a good question. There could have
39 been better reporting. People getting more used to the
40 registration permit. And success rates basically went from
41 about 22 percent in 2001 up to 30 percent, although the
42 percentage really doesn't mean much, you know, the bottom
43 line is it's about 17 more moose were killed than last
44 year.

45
46 Some of that could have been due to the
47 Vinacelli fire that could have altered movements of bull
48 moose later in the fall where they used to, you know,
49 aggregate outside the river corridor. You know, that was
50 in a big area at least within 19(D) it was burned on the

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1 south side of the Kuskokwim, so I think a lot of those
2 moose that were taken, those extra moose were ones that
3 predominately had hung out in old burns back off the river
4 and were just temporarily pushed out to the river for this
5 year, probably won't get those distribution changes for
6 next year with regrowth that's occurring.

7

8 Other than that we've got a big moose
9 survey, hopefully planned for 19(A) and (B) for this coming
10 spring. We'll try for this fall but I doubt the weather is
11 going to be favorable.

12

13 But we're geared up for it for the fall and
14 just to point out that as far as I know we're not going to
15 be dealing with fish at all at the Aniak Moose Summit.
16 That's going to be predominately a moose issue meeting.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Are you and your
19 staff attending that moose summit then?

20

21 MR. BOUDREAU: Yes. Yes, me and my
22 assistant will -- we'll be there, we'll be the highlight of
23 the whole thing.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Highlight the
28 predator control. What have you done to -- I know there's
29 been a lot of requests made to instigate a predator control
30 program for McGrath area, has there been anything done to
31 that effect?

32

33 MR. BOUDREAU: Well, I guess the 19(D)'s
34 planning -- you know the Governor appointed the adapted
35 management team and they came up with recommendations and
36 those were forwarded to the Commissioner's office and as of
37 yet those haven't been implemented. So there is a plan to
38 do that, however, nothing has been heard.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. This is an
41 election year, at least get some promises by voice or on
42 paper. Any further questions for Mr. Boudreau. Jack.

43

44 MR. REAKOFF: Was there a correlation
45 between the hare population decline and the increase in
46 wolf predation on moose calves?

47

48 MR. BOUDREAU: Chairman Sam. Member
49 Reakoff, we don't really have the hare fluctuations that
50 you see around Fairbanks and other areas. Since I've been

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1 there in the last four years, the number of rabbits has
2 pretty much remained static. I don't think that hare
3 populations have much to do with it, in fact, we have very
4 little lynx around, they're in very small pockets because
5 there are no hares or very few.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

8

9 MR. JONES: Yes, Benedict Jones, Koyukuk.
10 On your radio tags on calves, are they colored or blend in
11 with the calves? And another question is have you done any
12 studies with Canada that they're radio tagging up in that
13 area, too?

14

15 MR. BOUDREAU: Chairman Sam. Member Jones,
16 the collars that we put on them are made of ACE bandage
17 material, four layers of ACE bandage that are all sewn
18 together and then we dye them dark brown so they're not
19 bright white or anything. We try to make them as
20 inconspicuous as possible and they're made to expand over
21 time and they blend in fairly well.

22

23 And as far as Canadian studies, I'm not
24 really aware of what they're doing as far as calf mortality
25 goes at this point in time.

26

27 MR. JONES: Yeah, this previous fire you
28 had this last summer, is there any increase of moose
29 population on the river or on the hills since that forest
30 fire?

31

32 MR. BOUDREAU: Chairman Sam. Member Jones,
33 we haven't really done any moose surveys since then. I can
34 tell you that the 100 or so moose radio collars that we
35 have out on adults and yearlings and two year olds and
36 calves, the fire hasn't really affected their distribution
37 whatsoever. I was speculating as to why more bulls were
38 taken during this fall, that it could have been in part due
39 to the fire, could have also been, you know, other weather
40 conditions that caused moose to move earlier. But we have
41 not done any moose surveys as of yet. We've got them
42 planned for as soon as the snow gets a little deeper, so
43 sorry.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
46 Mr. Boudreau. If not, we'll take a 10 minute break. It is
47 now 10:44.

48

49 (Off record)

50

00089

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I'll call the
4 meeting back to order. With the consent of the Council
5 members I would like to briefly revisit Item VIII,
6 appointments. Is that fine with everyone.

7

8 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, that's fine. I was
9 glad because I was thinking about it earlier and, you know,
10 even though I gave up my CFC seat to Robert, I still wanted
11 to be involved in the in-season management as far as the
12 teleconferences.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Pete, will you make a
15 note of that that Micky takes part in all of these
16 teleconferences as a past member for the CFC for the Yukon
17 River?

18

19 MR. DeMATTEO: Will do.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

22

23 MR. STICKMAN: I mean I actually wanted to
24 stay up on it so like maybe if -- because, you know, we're
25 all village people and we know how busy we are at different
26 times of the year, you know, like maybe if Robert couldn't
27 make it that if any kind of meetings came up where the CFC
28 had to be involved and Robert couldn't make it I would
29 still like to be involved in that way as far as the Yukon
30 River is concerned.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Either Robert or
33 Benedict, so maybe you could be -- appropriate at this time
34 to name Micky as an alternate. Is there a motion to that
35 effect?

36

37 MR. WALKER: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I'd like
38 to make a moment to that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved and seconded that
45 Micky Stickman be named as the -- appointed as the
46 alternate for the Yukon River Coordinated Fisheries
47 Committee. All those in favor of the motion signify by
48 saying aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

00090

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. During our
6 break I spoke with Fred Anderson and there was some
7 misunderstanding on what we were doing and he stated to me
8 that Polluck Simon's term was up and we need to reappoint
9 him to the Gates of the Arctic Resource Committee.

10

11 Go ahead, Jack.

12

13 MR. REAKOFF: Polluck Simon has been on the
14 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission and is
15 Chair of the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee and the Gates
16 of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission and has been
17 a very good member for attendance so I am very much in
18 favor of Polluck's reappointment to the Gates of the Arctic
19 Subsistence Resource Commission from the Western Interior
20 Regional Council.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: That was a motion.

23

24 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to reappoint
25 Polluck Simon.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

28

29 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, he's been a valuable
32 emissary to both the Western Interior and Koyukuk River
33 Advisory Committees and he shares a lot -- we live in the
34 town, city, so we share a lot of information and he has
35 been good. Any further discussion on this reappointment.

36

37 If not, all those in favor of reappointing
38 Polluck Simon to the Gates of the Arctic SRC signify by
39 saying aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Agency
48 reports -- going back to agency reports. Do we have any
49 more Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division reports?

50

00091

1 If not, we go into Bureau of Land
2 Management, do we have -- I see Jeff Denton coming up.
3

4 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
5 Council members. My name is Jeff Denton. I'm with the
6 Anchorage Field Office, BLM. I'm a biologist and
7 subsistence specialist there. I'll present the Anchorage
8 Field Office information and Tim Craig will present the
9 Northern Field Office information for you immediately
10 following me.

11
12 I guess in terms of new business, BLM has
13 a new State director, new member on the Federal Board, his
14 name is Henry Bisson. He's been here, I think, four or
15 five months now actually in the state. He's getting his
16 feet on the ground, he's putting a great deal of trust in
17 Taylor Brelsford to kind of give him guidance here until he
18 gets his feet on the ground. Right now, however, Taylor's
19 on a detail to the Pipeline Office, he's doing the
20 subsistence portions for the Pipeline renewal EIS and so
21 he's not acting on the Staff Committee right now either.
22 We have our State biologist, John Payne serving in that
23 position temporarily. So there's a lot of shifting going
24 on personnel wise currently with BLM.

25
26 In the last year, in your particular region
27 BLM's conducting -- we did some survey work, just
28 stratification level, not density estimate type surveys in
29 19(D) from McGrath, between McGrath and Swift River south
30 to -- or McGrath and Big River south to the Swift River to
31 get an idea of two things. One, we're entering a large
32 long-term planning process in BLM in Alaska so we're trying
33 to get some baseline data for distribution and relative
34 abundance of primary moose is what we were directed at last
35 year and also to get sample sizes enough to get an idea of
36 current production rates and calf survival sort of things
37 to supplement Fish and Game work that's going on in those
38 same areas.

39
40 This year we're intending to -- this coming
41 winter to do the stuff around Lime Village at the same
42 intensity and try to compare that with work that was done
43 11 years ago and I think Toby is going to also do some work
44 this spring with a density estimate in that Lime Village
45 area in coordination with the areas to the south of there
46 in 19(A) and (B), further south down there. And so we'll
47 try to coordinate his effort.

48
49 I'm going to also attempt to the BLM blocks
50 of land south of the Kuskokwim in the Oskowalik area, the

00092

1 south -- south of Red Devil, it's a fairly small area there
2 but we've never done any work in there to know what we
3 have.

4

5 We'll try to compare habitats, old burns,
6 our land cover habitat mapping things to see if we can
7 start building some predictive models of where moose should
8 be, what kind of densities potentially should be in some of
9 those areas. The alarming things that we've seen in the
10 last two years in surveys is we've got a lot of burns there
11 that aren't that old, they're actually have -- have
12 excellent forage, shallow snow depth, we're not seeing
13 hardly moose in those and there should be moose in those.
14 If they're responding to these burns, some of these burns
15 are perfect timing for pretty significant moose response
16 and we're not seeing moose number responses in those areas.

17

18 And I gave Robert and Angela, you know, the
19 GASH area ownership map that we've been trying to work
20 through for the last five years, we finally have that
21 published and out. We're distributing it through the Fish
22 and Game offices in McGrath and Bethel and also through the
23 Innoko Refuge Offices and YK-Delta offices. I'm hoping
24 Robert and Angela and will get those to your tribal offices
25 and I have boxes of those things so when you need more I'll
26 send them out to you for distribution for hunters or
27 whomever may need those. They're a map that you can take
28 out in the field. They're waterproof, tear proof, you can
29 have them out in the wind, they won't soak up and fall
30 apart and you can actually see where you're at, figure out
31 where you're at on them and you can see the land marks and
32 I think they'll be a real valuable tool to folks out there.

33

34 By the way in your booklet, Pages 269 to
35 271 has most of the details of information here. I'm not
36 going to go into the copious details of some of this stuff.

37

38 I said we're entering into a long-term
39 planning effort, the GASH area and your region will come on
40 line for the beginning work in 2006. We'll be doing some
41 preliminary inventory work starting now as we can get it
42 done for big game as well as we're contracting with the
43 University of Alaska to do a lot of small mammal, small
44 bird, amphibian bats, the whole wildlife spectrum. We
45 expect to find -- because very few surveys and collections
46 have been done in this region, we're probably expecting to
47 find a lot of unique populations, range extensions of
48 species that we just didn't know they were there but
49 they've been there all along. And we need to have this
50 stuff because when we're dealing with oncoming projects

00093

1 like the Donland Creek gold prospect, we need to have all
2 this information including raptors and birds and so on and
3 so forth so we can do our impact analysis for those kinds
4 of things.

5

6 Upcoming issues like the Donland Creek gold
7 prospect are potentially very large and very significant
8 for your region. It will mean an influx of large numbers
9 of people, it will mean new access roads, it will mean
10 probably a considerable increase in potential subsistence
11 users that will be, you know, basically living out here and
12 wanting their piece of the pie basically out here. So --
13 and there's going to be access roads, 40 to 50 miles of new
14 access roads where they haven't been before. These are
15 going to change the way of life for folks in places out
16 here, at least, while that thing is in operation. So be
17 well aware that you want to be on the front end of the
18 curve when these things start going on and have your input,
19 subsistence lives and so on into their development plans.

20

21 Just kind of a heads up because it's
22 coming, it's a matter of time.

23

24 Also in conjunction with this planning
25 effort, just like the Park Service, BLM currently has been
26 mandated to conduct a wilderness potential study area
27 evaluation of their lands in Alaska and also for wild and
28 scenic river inventories to see what may or may not qualify
29 for those. So that's part of these planning processes as
30 well.

31

32 As you know this year, I guess, was a big
33 fire season in your particular region. Luckily one of the
34 surveys we did moose wise was pre the Vinacelli Mountain
35 burn so we have actually a baseline before that fire,
36 immediately before it, the winter before it so we can kind
37 of watch what happens there in subsequent years here to see
38 what the response is vegetative and also moose wise.

39

40 The Lime Village harvest reporting system
41 is on track. We expect to, at the end of 2003, the
42 regulatory year actually write up a 10 year report on that
43 system and have it available for your folks and anybody to
44 use it as a management tool.

45

46 Our ranger in the Anchorage Field Office is
47 going to retire in November, what little presence he did
48 have out here will not be out here anymore. We don't know
49 if we're going to fill that position or not behind him.

50 There is a need. We fully agree with that. And I have had

00094

1 him in the GASH area for two different years and we've
2 actually made some tickets, made some cases and we had a
3 lot of trespass from outfitters and so on.

4

5 I want to comment Jack for coming up with
6 the observation that BLM needs to do some limitations on
7 guides and guide densities. I wish we could get a hold on
8 the transporters as well. We fully agree with that. That
9 represents a major policy change for BLM. I've been
10 pushing that agenda, probably for four years now, not
11 successfully, but I believe with these planing efforts
12 we're going to do we can actually change those policies, at
13 least in these planning regions, I'm hoping for that. We
14 greatly need your support in that respect. I'll put the
15 Councils on the mailing list for these planning efforts
16 because I think you folks will play a major role
17 potentially in some of the decision making that will occur.

18

19

20 I guess I'll let it go at that, that's the
21 major things going on. If you have any questions, have at
22 them. We're looking forward to the moose summit, we will
23 be there. We're actually gathering a lot of our data that
24 we have for that area and putting together a lot of the
25 harvest statistics and a lot of stuff to present there.

26

27 So if you have any questions, have at her,
28 I guess.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Jeff
31 Denton.

32

33 MR. WALKER: I'll just save it for Aniak.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, thank you, Robert, that
36 helps us out. We're saving quite a bit for Aniak Moose
37 Summit. Jack.

38

39 MR. REAKOFF: I would just like to comment
40 that I feel that it's very necessary that the Bureau of
41 Land Management has an enforcement ranger in that southern
42 portion. As I stated before the enforcement effort of
43 Alaska Fish and Wildlife Protection is declining an
44 enforcement presence by BLM, US Fish and Wildlife and Park
45 Service is extremely necessary at this time and I would
46 like to have that conveyed to the BLM director, possibly
47 through a letter so maybe we'll address a letter to the BLM
48 on that issue and the guiding area issue also. Because
49 those are extremely impacting upon subsistence uses in the
50 Western region.

00095

1 MR. DENTON: I would definitely recommend
2 you do, write the letter, because otherwise, you know, I
3 beat the drum from my level and it doesn't do a whole lot
4 of good. It needs to go from you folks to the top and then
5 trickle back down to actually get some management change.
6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Did you
8 get that directive, Pete or should we just direct that to
9 Vince, to get a letter out on this issue?
10

11 MR. DeMATTEO: The best way to do it would
12 be to have Vince draft a letter from the Council, yes.
13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Thank you. Would it
15 be in order to include this in the annual report --
16 reflected in the annual report?
17

18 MR. DeMATTEO: Absolutely. You could two
19 things or a combination of both, do the letter and the
20 annual report as you've done in the past for such requests.
21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I totally agree with
23 Jack on this issue and I think that we should go ahead and
24 do it in both, with a letter and annual report, the
25 recommendation.
26

27 MR. DeMATTEO: Okay.
28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
30 Jeff Denton. If not, who else do we have?
31

32 MR. DENTON: Tim Craig from the Northern
33 Field Office, I think, has some information. Thank you,
34 Mr. Chair, and Council.
35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks, Jeff.
37

38 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman and Council
39 members. I'm Tim Craig. I work for the Northern Field
40 Office out of Fairbanks here. Our office basically
41 administers kind of the BLM lands of the northern half of
42 the Western Interior. This is Cindy Hamfler, our
43 subsistence database technician.
44

45 I think Vince may have passed out to you my
46 report, it should be before you. And in the interest of
47 time I won't go through everything but I thought I might
48 highlight some of the things that you might be interested
49 in.
50

00096

1 First of all, basically as a result of this
2 Council's interest in having the BLM participate in moose
3 surveys along with the Fish and Game we will be
4 participating again this year, this will be the third year,
5 in moose trend counts in the upper Koyukuk Basin area. And
6 we've actually scheduled the flights for the last week in
7 October if we have snow that will enable us to perform
8 those surveys.

9
10 I thought you might be interested to know
11 that the BLM in corporation with other agencies operates,
12 of course, the visitor contact facilities at Yukon
13 Crossings and at Coldfoot Alaska. And while there was a
14 decline in tour visitors this year, there was an increase
15 of about six percent in independent travelers and that may
16 reflect these improvements in the road. The highway
17 improvements on the Dalton Highway are increasing, you
18 know, yearly and I think the last I heard within five years
19 it may be entirely paved. Along with that, BLM has
20 increased some of the facilities -- or improved some of the
21 facilities that are already existing there.

22
23 The number of hunting guides operating in
24 the Dalton Highway Management unit under special recreation
25 permits has remained pretty constant for the last two
26 years, however, I thought I should point out to the Council
27 that we have gotten an application for a new hunting guide
28 operation in the Jim River drainage by horseback. It is my
29 understanding that this application would be good for next
30 year. We're doing the environmental analysis this winter.

31
32 I should have also mentioned that along
33 with the road developments, the increased recreation
34 facilities there, the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center is
35 progressing. It is my understanding that it's to be opened
36 in June of this year.

37
38 And with that, that's pretty much most of
39 the issues and monitoring that we're doing out of the
40 northern field office. I thought I'd let Cindy Hamfler
41 describe to you what she's been working on and her plans in
42 the future.

43
44 MS. HAMFLER: Mr. Chair, Council members
45 thank you for your time. As time said, my name is Cindy
46 Hamfler, subsistence technician here in Fairbanks. And I
47 just wanted to make sure that all of you were aware that
48 BLM is working very hard on a statewide database that has
49 a strong GIS component, thanks to Jeff Denton and our data
50 administrators. That is going to serve as the storehouse

00097

1 for all the wildlife observations that the BLM collects.
2 It's kind of a way for us to organize and maintain our data
3 in a system so that it's here for all the biologists in all
4 of our offices and available forever in the future.

5
6 Besides the wildlife observation system, I
7 spent this summer out in the field with Tim and other
8 biologists in our office collecting data in the field with
9 GPS units and then back in the office analyzing the data
10 with GIS systems on subsistence populations in various
11 areas that our office handles. So hopefully all this will
12 make the wildlife biologists much more aware of all the
13 data that we have and can collect and organize for
14 subsistence populations.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MR. CRAIG: With that, we'd be happy to
19 answer any -- or attempt to answer any questions you might
20 have.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: So are we then permitted to
23 go subsistence moose hunting by horseback?

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MR. CRAIG: It's my understanding you could
28 if you had a horse, yeah.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions.

33
34 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

37
38 MR. REAKOFF: Has the BLM office, northern
39 district office contemplated the telemetry study and moved
40 further towards a telemetry study for moose along the --
41 within the Dalton Highway Corridor extending, I would like
42 to see that study extend across with a partnership with
43 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, National Park Service
44 and U.S. Fish and Wildlife for a telemetry study.

45
46 I was wondering what your office has
47 contemplated so far?

48
49 MR. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Reakoff, I
50 think I mentioned at the last meeting that there is this

00098

1 publication called the science publication in which Federal
2 agencies document research needs within their areas of
3 responsibility. And I did put in that science catalog a
4 notation that that was the type of information that we
5 needed. We haven't got any responses yet. As far as
6 pursuing individual funding for that, right now I'm
7 struggling just to get enough money to go ahead and try and
8 monitor subsistence populations through participation with
9 Fish and Game and so I haven't taken that next step to try
10 and pursue trying to get money on our own to start that
11 study.

12

13 MR. REAKOFF: I think that that issue
14 should be brought forward in our letter to the Bureau of
15 Land Management district office. And some funding has to
16 be -- this is a data lack and it's very instrumental for
17 management of moose in that upper northern Unit 24.

18

19 So how many guides do you have, another
20 question I have, is how many guides do you have in the
21 Dalton Highway Corridor area?

22

23 MR. CRAIG: Well, frankly I don't know the
24 answer to that. I think there is either five or six
25 special recreation permits that the -- of course, that's
26 handled by the recreational specialist there in the
27 northern field office but I think that it's five or six
28 that there are -- they actually have under permit. I
29 should mention one other thing, a couple of those permits
30 are not just to hunt on BLM but they're to cross BLM to get
31 out into Arctic Refuge or even into, I think, State land,
32 so they're not all just concentrated on BLM land.

33

34 MR. REAKOFF: What I would like to know is
35 if there are guides actually guiding in the Dalton Highway
36 Corridor, that's what I'm unfamiliar with. I know of
37 guides going in and out of the corridor, I don't know of
38 any guides that are guiding, can you obtain that kind of
39 information?

40

41 MR. CRAIG: Yeah, sure. There definitely
42 are some guides that are in the Dalton Wildlife Management
43 Unit which is bigger than the corridor, you know, but
44 basically between Arctic or the State and Gates to the west
45 there are some guides that actually operate on BLM lands
46 there. But we can get that information if you'd like to
47 know, you know, kind of see their permits even and see what
48 the areas are.

49

50 I should mention that most of those special

00099

1 recreation permits don't -- they don't specify the
2 geographic boundary in BLM terms. They're the subunits
3 that the Fish and Game has established. So in other words,
4 a guide would come in and get a permit from us for all
5 Federal, all BLM lands within this subunit that the Fish
6 and Game has established.

7

8 MR. REAKOFF: The reason I'm bringing this
9 issue up is this escalating guiding to the east of the
10 Dalton Highway Corridor. The demand for sheep resource is
11 increasing dramatically and this is my concern that this
12 guiding pressure is going to start to infiltrate into the
13 Dalton Highway Corridor and so I would -- again, I would
14 like to see guide areas established before this thing gets
15 out of control like it has to the east. And so if there
16 are guides starting to guide in the corridor, I would like
17 to know if that's starting to happen now.

18

19 MR. CRAIG: It's my understanding -- I just
20 talked to the recreation people about this last week and
21 then also our law enforcement people, it's been my
22 understanding that there have been no new permits other
23 than the one in the Jim River drainage in the last two or
24 three years. It's been pretty much static. And, you know,
25 there's a couple of permits that I'm sure you're familiar
26 with, Jack, in Robert's Creek, you know, that's BLM land
27 there, that's within the Dalton Management Unit. But I
28 think most of the other ones just allow people to get
29 through BLM lands to get to wherever they're sheep hunting,
30 especially, I think, in the headwaters, Chandalar country
31 there.

32

33 I also ought to mention that it's my
34 understanding that, you know, the BLM lands throughout
35 Alaska are managed under resource management plans that
36 have been established by environmental impact statements
37 and, at least, that's the case in the Dalton Highway
38 Corridor. And that plan to make the move from the way
39 special recreation permits are issued now to a guide -- or
40 an area -- a more restricted guiding situation would
41 require an amendment to that EIS.

42

43 MR. REAKOFF: This guide area thing is
44 escalating and that's what this letter should bring to the
45 attention of the district manager, is that, this is what
46 changes are necessary the Bureau of Land Management is
47 going to have to go to that type of system because the
48 state of Alaska -- the Game Board asked for a commercial
49 services board, the legislature is not giving them a
50 commercial services board, so when these type of guiding

00100

1 activities begin to affect subsistence resources to the
2 type of degree that they are starting to occur under Land
3 management land and State lands, then the Bureau of Land
4 Management is going to have to go to a type system that the
5 other Federal agencies are managing on Federal lands.

6

7 I'll state also that the Bureau of Land
8 Management should have more presence for fish and wildlife
9 protection along the Dalton Highway Corridor than occurred
10 this year. The State stepped back, the Bureau of Land
11 Management as the lead agency -- I tried to get the Park
12 Service to lend some enforcement on the North Slope during
13 caribou season, because it's not occurring on Park lands
14 they were reluctant to -- as the BLM has ownership of those
15 lands, I think the Bureau of Land Management ranger is
16 going to have to step forward like they have in the past
17 and have more presence, continuous presence during hunting
18 season. There was a lot of illegal activity occurring on
19 Bureau of Land Management land this year.

20

21 MR. CRAIG: I will be glad to take those
22 concerns back. We're a public agency and we respond to
23 public pressure. And so I would say that a letter from the
24 Council would probably facilitate any kind of a change in
25 our management there.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else. Any further
28 questions.

29

30 MR. STICKMAN: Right here, Ron.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

33

34 MR. STICKMAN: I was just looking at the
35 map here and noticed that there's a lot of BLM land behind
36 Nulato -- in between Nulato and Kaltag and I just wanted to
37 go on record to let you know that there is increased
38 guiding activity this spring in early April and the end of
39 March -- early April. The guides are coming from the
40 McGrath area so, you know, they pretty well cleaned out
41 that area so they're moving across to our area but there is
42 increased activity as far as guides in the Nulato area in
43 the spring. And they're using snowmachines, airplanes,
44 whatever they can get. But the one thing that I wanted you
45 to know is as they do this guiding activities, they're also
46 going through private Native allotments and I think that
47 should be a concern because if BLM is allowing them to hunt
48 on BLM lands they should have some kind of restrictions as
49 far as trespassing on Native allotments.

50

00101

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jeff.

2

3 MR. DENTON: Speaking for the Anchorage
4 field office, our guides and outfitters in the last two
5 years have over doubled, the number of permits we're
6 putting out. We put out, every month, three and four new
7 guide and outfitter permits. We're getting a lot of
8 pressure. There's -- some of these guys have just not been
9 aware that they needed a permit from BLM, we've gone to the
10 State licensing board and actually screened all the people
11 that are supposed to be legitimately licensed and then
12 we're kind of going after them to say you need a BLM
13 license, you better get in here and do it or we're going to
14 shut you down and so on. So part of it is some of these
15 folks have been there along, other ones are brand new
16 folks, there's a lot of dynamics going on in the guiding
17 industry right now. And in the GASH area as well as the
18 Anvik area, the Unalakleet area, like up behind Nulato and
19 Kaltag, some of those areas we've had significant increases
20 in guide and outfitter activity, primarily bear activity in
21 the area you're talking about.

22

23 But we've had significant increases also in
24 transporters, which we -- because they're all State waters
25 we don't have any control over where they land or where
26 they run their boats and so we don't permit transporters
27 and the transporter industry is probably doubled as well
28 and we -- you know, we don't monitor that. But again, the
29 State licensing board controls that and that's one of the
30 things that's kind of the wild card in this whole thing and
31 part of the problem, potentially.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions. If
34 not, are we done with BLM -- it is now 11:36.

35

36 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 MR. CRAIG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Ida, do you have
41 a report on BIA or do we have a handout only?

42

43 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ida
44 Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member. It's the handout
45 that says, Federal Subsistence Use Amounts Necessary
46 Protocol. And I'm giving this report not exactly as the
47 BIA but as the BIA member on the Federal/State MOA
48 protocols. And the Council members on this particular
49 protocol are Harry Brower from the North Slope and Gerald
50 Nicholia from Eastern Interior.

00102

1 The main focus for your Council today is
2 just a charge which is just this first paragraph on the
3 very first page. And I don't need your comments at this
4 moment but if you have any objections to this charge I need
5 to know them before I leave tonight or else give it to me
6 in writing as soon as possible because the MOA protocol
7 group, at their next meeting is going to adopt this so if
8 you have any objections I need to know about that.
9

10 And the next page is on Page 4, the pages
11 are on the top of -- the numbers are on top of the page, is
12 a tentative time line for this protocol and that's for your
13 review also and if you have any concerns or objections with
14 that time line I need to know about that. And it's
15 somewhat a fluctuating time line, depending on how
16 successful our various work group meetings are. But the
17 implementation is expected for June of 2004.
18

19 And on Page 5 on appendix 1, the appendix
20 runs rather -- three pages, but the main thing on this was
21 just the Yukon/Kuskokwim portion which is just the top of
22 that Page 5, it's not the entire, we're focusing at the
23 Council's request -- or all the Council Chairs requested
24 that this protocol focus on just the Yukon River and just
25 salmon and if that works, we'll look at other species and
26 other areas.
27

28 And there hasn't been -- I think we've had
29 about three meetings and the main thing that we want now is
30 to adopt the charge so we can go forward and that's
31 basically the extent of my report. The MOA protocol work
32 group works just to address these issues and then we meet
33 with the entire Federal/State MOA work group and they
34 approve or make recommendations and changes on any work
35 product we have.
36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. And so in
38 order for you to go ahead we would have to approve this
39 charge, the first portion or what?
40

41 MS. HILDEBRAND: It would be beneficial for
42 our working group to know that we are within the ball park
43 that this Council approves of, so, yes, if you would
44 approve it it would greatly help us. And this protocol was
45 also given to the CFC members and there was a meeting
46 discussion during the YRDFA conference last year in Nenana,
47 it was last spring, I don't remember which month, and we
48 addressed this also and asked for them to look at and focus
49 on any issues that they wanted me to be aware of or wanted
50 the group to be aware of and I haven't heard from any of

00103

1 them. But our main focus today is on accepting the charge
2 so we can go forward with it.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

5

6 MR. REAKOFF: I think this is a very timely
7 thing and I feel that this is very worthwhile to work out
8 these amounts necessary. I would have to review this
9 document further but I think it's a very necessary thing
10 and I think that -- or view of some of those levels for
11 terrestrial animals in -- that the State has done is
12 imperative. So off hand, I very much welcome this
13 protocol.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was that a motion to -- do
16 we need a motion to approve it?

17

18 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, it's the
19 Chair's call. If you wanted a motion, that's fine, if you
20 just want to tell me right here that would work for me as
21 well.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I think a consent
24 would do. Is it fine with all the Council Chairs, because
25 I think I'd like to see this program go on too.

26

27 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

30

31 MR. STICKMAN: Well, I guess we probably
32 would be better off if we just made a motion to adopt the
33 charge.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: If that's the pleasure of
36 the Council go right ahead.

37

38 MS. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me, Mr. Chair, if
39 it's by unanimous consent and I think that's where the
40 Chair is going then that has the same effect as a motion.
41 So if there's no objection to the Chair's statement it is
42 by unanimous consent.

43

44 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, I just wanted to make
45 sure it's not lost.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks Micky. Is
48 everyone in agreement with going forward with the charge?

49

50 (Council nods affirmatively)

00104

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't see any objections.
2 So Ida you can take that back.

3
4 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
5 I just wanted to reassure the Council, although we're
6 looking at the State's procedure and the numbers they use
7 we are not adopting it, we're just using it as a guideline
8 in our own discussions and development.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think that's the
11 reason why we didn't really put it in a motion, I don't
12 want to adopt any kind of numbers at this time.

13
14 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
15 take that as unanimous consent on the charge only and to go
16 forward with that. Any further developments would, again,
17 come before this Council.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. Does that
22 conclude the BIA report then?

23
24 MS. HILDEBRAND: (Nods affirmatively)

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. It is now 11:43,
27 what's the pleasure of the Board, continue with agency
28 reports or do you want to go to lunch? Because we have
29 Fish and Wildlife Service, we have Refuges, National Parks,
30 Fisheries still. Lunch and come back at 1:00, yes, 1:00
31 o'clock sharp.

32
33 (Off record)

34
35 (On record)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to call the meeting
38 back to order. First item on our agenda is Polly Wheeler,
39 would you take the mike please.

40
41 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
42 promise I won't take more than about 20 seconds here. Uh-
43 huh, somebody's counting -- okay, two minutes.

44
45 Last night when I gave you -- when I talked
46 to you about the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program for
47 the Kuskokwim River, I talked a little bit about the
48 Kuskokwim planning process, the strategic planning process
49 that's about to start and I said that the planning process
50 is being proposed right now and it's hopefully going to be

00105

1 initiated in the upcoming years, it will include local,
2 tribal and State and Federal agencies user groups and
3 Kuskokwim River communities and the public, what I would
4 like from you, Mr. Chair, is last night I did give it to
5 you as an information item but would help our efforts to
6 get some funding for this is if the Regional Council were
7 to actually endorse the proposed strategic planning process
8 for the Kuskokwim so that we could then move forward. So
9 all I would ask from you, Mr. Chair, is a vote in the
10 affirmative to support this proposed planning process.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a motion. The
13 Chair will entertain a motion asking for unanimous consent.

14

15 MR. STICKMAN: So moved for the Kuskokwim
16 plan.

17

18 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Micky, seconded by
21 Angela. Any objections. So ordered.

22

23 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fish and Wildlife Service.
26 Do we just want to go on with agency reports and get it
27 over with?

28

29 MR. DeMATTEO: That's probably be best at
30 this time to stick with what you have.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: And then right after the
33 agency reports, you'd like to go into wildlife issues then?

34

35 MR. DeMATTEO: I'll tell you what's left.
36 We have wildlife issues, we also have to go over 2002
37 annual reports. And I believe that's it.

38

39 MR. STICKMAN: There's no new proposals.

40

41 MR. DeMATTEO: Well, there's one more thing
42 we have to do, is last night, I guess you heard quite a bit
43 about customary trade. On the record, the Council has to
44 state its wishes what you want to see customary trade
45 happen. Do you wish to go with what you saw on paper, do
46 you want to recommend changes to it or do you want more
47 time; those are your three choices.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Right off the bat I'd say
50 that we want more time and if we could just ask for a

00106

1 unanimous consent right now. Ask for more time. I haven't
2 really studied our positions on customary trade since we
3 worked on it. We spent quite a bit of time on it down at
4 Anchorage.

5
6 MR. DeMATTEO: Also in McGrath you also
7 worked on it in March.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we did spend some time
10 on it there, too. What's the pleasure of the Council.

11
12 MR. STICKMAN: I'll make a motion to go
13 with option one, the one that's, you know, just keep it as
14 it is for now, status quo for now.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion to go with
17 option one to leave it as is for the time being; is that
18 right?

19
20 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: For the time being. Is
23 there a second. Motion fails, lack of second. Any
24 direction from the Council, just ask for more time?

25
26 MR. STICKMAN: Well, actually option one
27 would give you more time.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the direction of the
30 Council. Robert.

31
32 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, maybe if Mr.
33 Stickman could make that motion again.

34
35 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to go with
36 option one to keep it as it is, status quo, to allow more
37 time for deliberation and public input.

38
39 MR. WALKER: I'll second it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Robert Walker.
42 Any further discussion.

43
44 MR. WALKER: Question.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called, all
47 those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

00107

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Good, get
6 that off the hook. So now we'll go back to agency reports,
7 right?

8

9 MR. DeMATTEO: Agency reports, correct.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: And we're into Fish and
12 Wildlife Service, Refuges. We've got Kanuti, Innoko and
13 the Koyukuk. Go ahead and start with Kanuti or Innoko.

14

15 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Chair person, Council.
16 My name is Clara Demientieff, RIT for the Innoko National
17 Wildlife Refuge, McGrath and for the GASH villages. I just
18 have a brief report to the Western Advisory Council
19 members.

20

21 This year, in December, will be my
22 anniversary date of employment with the Fish and Wildlife
23 so for the whole year I've been orientated to all the fish
24 and wildlife activities and traveling to the GASH villages
25 and the meetings and attending training. So I'll just give
26 a real brief report on that.

27

28 The trainings I've attended is the basic
29 helicopter and airplane and safety training, waterfowl
30 identification training. The dunker training in which the
31 aircraft water ditching, which is water ditching and
32 survival. Steel-shot training in Nickoli and Grayling and
33 McGrath. I have attended the ANCSA/ANILCA seminars and
34 trainings. The most important meeting we've had was the
35 GASH meeting in Grayling and also a GASH meeting with
36 Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross, that was called
37 informational meeting.

38

39 I do have a brief report on the GASH
40 meeting which was compiled by Bill Schaff, the Refuge
41 manager. I don't have any copies as of now but that can be
42 mailed to you and also to the GASH villages.

43

44 Educational activities, we've been invited
45 to career fairs to promote the fish and wildlife. There
46 was on in Shageluk but the weather was bad so we declined
47 that one. We're also invited to another one in Grayling
48 next year and I'm pretty sure it's in February. For the
49 past 10 years the Innoko Fish and Wildlife and the Iditarod
50 Area School District have summer science camps for

00108

1 students, really for Grade 10 but what we're doing as of
2 this past summer is we're recruiting throughout Alaska and
3 possibly hopefully to get students from the Lower 48 or
4 wherever they can be recruited from. So I'm hoping to go
5 to AFN and speak with the elders and speak with the
6 students about the science camp and hopefully we will get
7 a little more students than we did this past summer.

8

9 We do have the results of the 2002 aerial
10 survey of moose of the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
11 which we did last March. And this was just given to me
12 before I got on the plane so I don't have any copies and
13 this can be sent to the Council also.

14

15 During the summer the Innoko Fish and
16 Wildlife has student career experience program and also the
17 student temporary employment program, it's a STEP program
18 where we get students from college who goes out to the
19 Refuge all summer and do biological work and we had
20 probably like five or six of them this past summer.

21

22 There's a real brief Innoko National
23 Wildlife Refuge history, those will also be sent. And Bill
24 just gave me this poster, again, before I got on the plane,
25 this poster is to be sent out to the GASH villages and it's
26 regarding hunters and fishers on the Innoko Refuge and it
27 says that your help is needed this summer and fall while
28 you're on the river. If you see any problems, illegal
29 kills, trash or any other problems on the Innoko Refuge to
30 contact the Refuge Manager in McGrath. The best bet in
31 order to get a hold of all this is to take pictures, if you
32 do have a camera and see that there is a problem on the
33 Refuge to, you know, go ahead and take pictures so that we
34 can approach that in a better way.

35

36 This is all I have for the Innoko report.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions for Clara
39 Demientieff. I've got a few. Will you have all that
40 survey reports down at Anvik [sic], too.?

41

42 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. And go ahead and
45 please mail that out to us.

46

47 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: We're concerned about the
50 moose in that country. Any further questions for Clara.

00109

1 Robert.

2

3 MR. WALKER: Yes, Clara. Thank you for
4 your report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You mentioned
5 something about cameras, didn't Bill say something about he
6 was going to put up posters in the area or something to say
7 to be watchful and if you see something to report it, if
8 you have a camera take a picture; didn't he say that? I
9 think we discussed that here sometime last....

10

11 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Is that for illegal
12 actions on the Innoko Refuge?

13

14 MR. WALKER: Right. Yes.

15

16 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah.

17

18 MR. WALKER: Okay, thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

21

22 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you, Clara.
25 Kanuti, Bob Shults.

26

27 MR. SHULTS: Good afternoon. My name is
28 Robert Shults. I'm the Refuge manager for the Kanuti
29 National Wildlife Refuge.

30

31 Just prior to this morning's break I passed
32 out to each of you there the Kanuti Refuge moose harvest
33 report for the year 2000 and 2001 regulatory year. If you
34 turn to the last page and look at the map, maybe it will be
35 the easiest to explain what we've done here.

36

37 Previously we reported this information.
38 When we reported that information, we took the amount of
39 harvest was calculated off the State's uniform code units,
40 those are the areas that are showed with the black letters.
41 All the harvest from that entire area there, we used just
42 the -- we considered that they were all taken within the
43 boundary of the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge and this
44 resulted in an overestimation of the percent of moose that
45 was harvested from this area. So what we did is we
46 calculated the acreage of the entire uniform code units
47 there and we recalculated that information based on that
48 and we came up with about a three percent harvest rate for
49 the total moose population from that entire area there so
50 it gives us a little bit better look at what the data is.

00110

1 Again, I'd like to remind you that this is
2 for the 2000/2001 harvest year. Just two days ago we
3 received from the State, the 2001/2002 regulatory year
4 information. We will be incorporating that information and
5 getting it out to you.

6
7 From a cursory look it looks very similar.
8 Harvest tickets, I think, returns from the 2001/2002 were
9 only 16 where for the 2000/2001 there were 14. So I think
10 the data is going to come out just about probably three
11 percent there. Previously we were reporting somewhere
12 around five percent or a little bit above five percent and
13 I know Jack had a concern that that's the upper limits that
14 the Koyukuk River moose management plan calls for. So this
15 gives us a little bit better estimate on that.

16
17 In addition, we dropped out three of the
18 UCU's there along the western side of the Refuge, only a
19 very small portion if any of them touched the Refuge there
20 so the one up the Alatna River we dropped out entirely
21 because there's only that one little corner on the west
22 side of the Refuge where it touched. If you look at the
23 maps and that to get to that area you almost have to sprout
24 wings and fly in there.

25
26 If you have any questions on it I'll be
27 around the rest of the day and be more than happy to
28 discuss them with you.

29
30 New business associated with the
31 subsistence issues, the end of July Kanuti Refuge conducted
32 a very successful biological review. We brought in 19
33 individuals, they ranged anywhere from tribal
34 representatives to researchers out of Canada. We sat down
35 for two days and discussed the issues of the Kanuti Refuge
36 and we've come up now with some high ranking things that we
37 are going to spend some time over the wintertime hopefully
38 get some long-term objectives and goals started on
39 monitoring some of the things that are going on on the
40 Refuge there.

41
42 Some of the things that came out high were
43 the hydrology, understanding the flows and what's happening
44 there with the river systems. Another thing that came out
45 high was the fire regime. There it seems like the Kanuti
46 River, the upper Kanuti River area has one of the highest
47 frequencies or reoccurrences of fires in the area. Moose
48 came out very high there. Understanding their movements
49 and numbers and where they're going. Getting a better
50 handle on the understanding of our resident fish

00111

1 populations up there was also something that came up very
2 high.

3

4 So we're going to be looking at how we can
5 develop some research and some survey techniques to get a
6 handle on what's going on there.

7

8 We just completed a beaver cache survey for
9 the second year. We modified the beaver cache survey this
10 year, we're using the same technique that we're using for
11 looking at our moose populations. Previously to this year
12 we flew the streams or the tributaries and because there's
13 so many branches and because of the density of beavers gets
14 so high in areas, it was pretty difficult to have any
15 replication from year to year with any consistency. Going
16 with the Baroof (ph) method, the way we're looking at our
17 moose, we're looking at blocks, selected blocks throughout
18 the Refuge and hopefully from year to year we'll be able to
19 go back to those units and count them again and get some
20 consistency there.

21

22 As Tim Craig, from BLM indicated, again,
23 Fish and Wildlife Service is working with Bureau of Land
24 Management and with the State Fish and Game and we're
25 looking at the last week of October to pull off another
26 moose trend survey. This will be our third year that we've
27 conducted it consistently in the same way so hopefully our
28 numbers will be coming -- every year that we get an
29 additional survey our numbers will be that much better and
30 will have that much more credence to them.

31

32 This spring we're looking at holding a
33 couple steel-shot clinics. One in Bettles-Evansville and
34 the other one will be down at Allakaket and Alatna.

35

36 We've just hired a full-time permanent Park
37 ranger during the summer months. That person will be
38 working up at Coldfoot at the Interagency Arctic Visitor
39 Center. And during the off season she'll be here in
40 Fairbanks and she'll be working on outreach efforts. This
41 year here, these posters that you see on the wall, we're
42 trying to get some information out on subsistence issues.
43 She brings quite a bit of high powered ability to do
44 graphics and things like this and we hope to get more
45 information out. Not only on the use of steel-shot and on
46 the preservation of our cow moose but hopefully we can get
47 some stuff out on fisheries when the fishing activities are
48 going on.

49

50 That's all I have today. If you have any

00112

1 questions or any concerns, I'd sure like to hear them.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Bob. I got a
4 question. I might be out of order but I see you use Dave
5 Andersen's door to door survey numbers, do you know if that
6 program ever got funded again?

7

8 MR. SHULTS: I believe in the year -- it's
9 my understanding that the year 2000/2001 was not funded so
10 we had to use averages but for the year 2001/2002 it was
11 conducted again and I don't know what the status of it is
12 this year.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
15 Bob. Go ahead, Jack.

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: Have you looked into doing a
18 telemetry study on moose in the Kanuti Refuge?

19

20 MR. SHULTS: We haven't gotten that far
21 yet, Jack. You know, after we got done with the biological
22 review, moose had a high priority on there, you know, major
23 emphasis should be placed on moose. What we're going to be
24 looking at is what we're going to be doing with them this
25 summer. We've gotten a lot of comments back from various
26 people on that and what we're going to be doing is sitting
27 down and trying to strategize where we need to go with the
28 moose. Been doing some brow survey, we've been doing some
29 trend surveys and that, is that giving us enough
30 information, where we need to go with it we don't know yet.

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further questions.

35

36 MR. SHULTS: Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Shults. Next
39 is Koyukuk/Nowitna.

40

41 MR. BEYERSDORF: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,
42 members of the Council. My name is Jeff Beyersdorf. I'm
43 a subsistence coordinator for the Koyukuk/Nowitna National
44 Wildlife Refuge based out of Galena.

45

46 Earlier I handed to the coordinator, Pete
47 DeMatteo, a copy of the Refuge report and also some
48 preliminary data on the hunter taxation on the Nowitna.
49 And what I want to do here is just touch on some of the
50 projects that the Refuge has been working on just to keep

00113

1 you up to date.

2

3 In regards to fisheries in conjunction with
4 YRDFA and the Fairbanks Fisheries Office, as you're aware
5 we had a pilot project to garner local input to in-season
6 salmon management and this was conducted in Nulato, Galena,
7 Huslia and Emmonak. And the information was used along
8 with other joint projects to help fisheries managers
9 develop management strategies. And I'd like to take a
10 moment here just to thank YRDFA and especially Jill Klein,
11 on a weekly basis she summarized those teleconferences that
12 some of you participated in and provided them to me and
13 what I was able to do with our local radio stations, I
14 presented those summaries over the radio station along with
15 whatever the current subsistence fishing regulations were
16 for that week.

17

18 And in addition, on the fisheries, we had
19 weir projects in cooperation with YRDFA and Fish and Game
20 and the Fairbanks Fisheries Office on the Nulato, Kateel
21 and the Gisasa Rivers.

22

23 In regards to customary trade, I know after
24 the meeting that was held last spring, with the help of
25 Orville Huntington and Patrick Madros and some community
26 members in Kaltag and Ruby, we were able to go to the
27 villages of Nulato, Huslia, Kaltag, Ruby and Galena and get
28 feedback from the local villages there and we were able to
29 take their comments and forward them to the Federal
30 Subsistence Board. When I return I'm going to be giving a
31 presentation in Huslia on customary trade and also in Ruby
32 and I'll also be contacting the six other villages
33 associated with the Refuge to make them aware of the
34 customary trade proposal.

35

36 Moving on to waterfowl, students in the
37 Galena area schools are currently tracking the migration of
38 greater white-fronted geese from the Interior to Mexico
39 that were implanted with satellite transmitters this last
40 summer. As part of the Refuge wildlife inventory plan,
41 aerial swan surveys were conducted throughout the Refuge
42 this past August. Waterfowl harvest surveys were conducted
43 in the villages within and adjacent to the Refuge this last
44 spring and they'll again be conducted this fall. And that
45 information will be compiled this winter and we'll present
46 it to you at the 2003 RAC meeting.

47

48 In addition, Orville and Patrick conducted
49 steel-shot clinics in Huslia and Nulato this past April and
50 they're also going to be conducting steel-shot clinics in

00114

1 -- tentatively we have Hughes, Tanana and Kaltag scheduled
2 for the spring of 2003.

3

4 In addition to the steel-shot clinics,
5 Patrick and Orville have just recently conducted -- gone
6 through the Alaska Department of Fish and Game hunter
7 instructor hunter education course and they're going to be
8 presenting that information in addition to the steel-shot
9 clinic information to the villages. And they'll also, I
10 think, be conducting that throughout the state with other
11 RITs.

12

13 On law enforcement, Refuge Staff conducted
14 law enforcement patrols this summer during the subsistence
15 chinook season. And this was done primarily to ensure that
16 everybody was aware of the fishing schedule and the
17 regulations that were in place at the time. And I went
18 along on some of those patrols and a lot of it was simply
19 educational, a lot of people weren't aware of what the
20 current regulations were so a lot of it was just contact
21 and making people aware of what was going on.

22

23 This past moose season, this last
24 September, Staff also conducted law enforcement patrols on
25 the three Refuges, Nowitna, Koyukuk, and the Kyiauh Flats
26 area. And we'd also like to take the time now to thank
27 Fish and Wildlife Protection Trooper, Sgt. Folger, out of
28 the Fairbanks office was able to detail two people out to
29 our area and they were extremely beneficial and we'd like
30 to thank them for their help.

31

32 And I also want to point out that we
33 understand Jack's and the other Council members concerns in
34 regards to the law enforcement issues that are going on.
35 And what we're going to do, as a Staff, there's several
36 issues and concerns that we want to talk about and we're
37 going to try and work with the law enforcement office here
38 in Fairbanks and have a more coordinated and greater
39 presence out on the Refuges this next year.

40

41 In regards to moose this past season, we
42 had the moose hunter check station out on the Nowitna River
43 and we had 134 hunters pass through and we had 51 moose
44 taken out of that area. And if we have favorable weather
45 and snow conditions as we did last year, we're going to be
46 doing a census this year, we're going to be trend count
47 areas on the Novi, on the Koyukuk and Kyiauh Flats and
48 there's also a chunk that we're going to be doing in
49 conjunction with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
50 with what we're calling the middle Yukon. It basically

00115

1 goes from Treat Island to Hughes.

2

3 Moving on to wolves, myself and Glenn, this
4 last winter went out to Kaltag, to Hughes and to Ruby and
5 conducted trapping and snaring clinics. There's been quite
6 a bit of feedback from that and interest from some of the
7 other local villages and we plan on again doing that this
8 coming winter.

9

10 And the last thing that I wanted to point
11 out in regards to staffing, we were able to pick up Patrick
12 Madros as a seasonal local hire this past year and also
13 P.J. Simon and we've just filled our supervisory wildlife
14 biologist position, Brad Scotten who was formally with the
15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game has come on. We've also
16 just filled our fire management officer position with the
17 Refuge.

18

19 And that concludes my presentation and I
20 would entertain any questions you have.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any questions for
23 Koyukuk/Nowitna. Benedict.

24

25 MR. JONES: Yeah, Jeff, I see there's a
26 little increase in the non-local harvest 41 percent and 21
27 percent in 2001, is this pressure, is that due to the
28 controlled use area for the Koyukuk River for drawing
29 permits, do people seek different hunting grounds?

30

31 MR. BEYERSDORF: I can just give you
32 anecdotal information from -- because I was stationed out
33 at the check station this year. I did have a lot of
34 comments from people that formerly hunted on the Koyukuk,
35 that one of the reasons they were coming here was because
36 of the regulation changes on the Koyukuk.

37

38 Does that address your question?

39

40 MR. JONES: (Nods affirmatively)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: And this -- I thought you
43 were just discussing the Nowitna, was that because of the
44 Koyukuk permit system or what, that increase?

45

46 MR. BEYERSDORF: Well, there -- you notice
47 that there is an increase but it's within five percent of
48 what the average is for the last 14 years there. But like
49 I said there were several comments made as far as the
50 change on the Koyukuk drainage and that's why people were

00116

1 -- some people were coming to the Nowitna drainage this
2 year.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that because of the
5 outside hunters that the locals have been harvesting so few
6 in this area?

7

8 MR. BEYERSDORF: I'm not sure I understand
9 your question, Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is it because of the influx
12 of outside hunters, that you see the locals get only about
13 three or four, something like that, on this chart, is it
14 because of the influx of hunters from the outside areas?

15

16 MR. BEYERSDORF: Well, with the locals, I
17 think you'll also see they're also within the past 14
18 years, like this last year they took three and the average
19 over the last 14 years is four. The thing -- one thing
20 that you don't see here that I am aware of is that potlatch
21 moose taken aren't included in this. And another thing,
22 some of the locals, especially from the Ruby area, they're
23 hunting in different areas, they're hunting along the road,
24 they're hunting along the sloughs that aren't necessarily
25 within the Nowitna drainage. So I think they're shifting
26 areas a little bit.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, that
29 answered my questions. Any further questions for
30 Koyukuk/Nowitna. Benedict.

31

32 MR. JONES: No.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Robert.

35

36 MR. WALKER: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 Have you been collecting the data of moose tags and stuff
38 from the local area there? I mean are they filling them
39 out and mailing them in or how is this -- you know you're
40 saying you're only getting like so many percent from the
41 local area? Could you answer that?

42

43 MR. BEYERSDORF: Do you mean how are we
44 coming up with that percentage of 40 percent from non-
45 locals?

46

47 MR. WALKER: No, I'm saying are the locals
48 turning in the harvest tags?

49

50 MR. BEYERSDORF: That is -- this is based

00117

1 on just who's coming through that check station and that's
2 why we're -- I'm calling this preliminary because what we
3 wait for and I work with Glenn on is getting the harvest
4 tickets in.

5

6 In the past, I know in some areas it has
7 been a problem but I believe that compliance, as far as
8 getting the harvest ticket information in is increasing and
9 especially from the local areas.

10

11 MR. WALKER: Okay, thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

14 Yeah, go ahead, Benedict -- this time Benedict.

15

16 MR. JONES: Yeah, Jeff -- thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman. Have you seen any increase in transporters in
18 the Nowitna area in the last two years?

19

20 MR. BEYERSDORF: I think probably Patrick
21 and Orville could probably answer that question?

22

23 MR. HUNTINGTON: What?

24

25 MR. BEYERSDORF: Have you seen an increase
26 -- Member Jones, did you say the Nowitna or the Koyukuk
27 Drainage?

28

29 MR. JONES: Just the Nowitna area?

30

31 MR. BEYERSDORF: I would say we really
32 don't have a good handle on that. One thing that we're
33 hoping to do this year is get information to all the air
34 taxi operators out because I think in the upper part of the
35 drainage for the Nowitna we're seeing a lot of use and we
36 don't know whether people are simply not aware of the
37 permit system for the Refuges or if it's simply illegal
38 activities.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: When do you expect final
41 numbers on the fall hunt to come out, do you have any idea?

42

43 MR. BEYERSDORF: I would expect this winter
44 and then hopefully we can present to you the final numbers
45 during next spring's meetings.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, could you get it out
48 sooner, I'd like to know -- I mean as soon as they're
49 finalized, could you get us -- mail it out to us?

50

00118

1 MR. BEYERSDORF: And you want them for
2 21(D), 21(A) and 21(B); is that correct for the -- for both
3 drainages, the Koyukuk and the Nowitna?

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

6
7 MR. BEYERSDORF: Okay, I will do that.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, just mail a copy to
10 the Council because we'd like to keep up on this issue.

11
12 MR. BEYERSDORF: Okay.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

15
16 MR. STICKMAN: Over here.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, go ahead, Micky.

19
20 MR. STICKMAN: I have the same concern as
21 Ben because during the visioning a couple of weeks ago,
22 Patrick McCarty, the first chief from Ruby brought up a
23 concern of their own local people bringing guiding and
24 transporting out of Ruby into their area so I just wanted
25 to have that on record because it was brought out in a
26 public meeting so it should be brought out here, too, that
27 that's a concern.

28
29 MR. BEYERSDORF: Member Stickman. I've
30 also heard some of those same things but my understanding
31 at this point is that they're outside of the Refuge and if
32 you know differently -- at this point I just am not aware
33 of that.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions. If
36 not, thank you for that report.

37
38 MR. BEYERSDORF: Thank you Council members.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that takes care of
41 our Refuges. Fisheries, who handles this, okay, go ahead?

42
43 MR. HANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
44 name is Randy Hander. I'm the assistant Yukon River
45 Federal in-season fishery manager and I'm also the
46 principal investigator for the in-season harvest assessment
47 of Yukon chinook and summer -- or chum salmon.

48
49 We conducted a pilot study in this past
50 season on the Yukon. And this was to give fishers,

00119

1 subsistence fishers and information -- an avenue to provide
2 information to State and Federal fisheries managers to use
3 in conjunction with other fishery assessment tools that
4 they have to assess the chinook and chum runs. These were
5 conducted in Emmonak, Nulato and later on in the season we
6 were able to add on, via some hard work from some
7 individuals that pitched in with the Galena, Huslia and the
8 GASH area.

9

10 Our main goals were to provide fisheries
11 managers with qualitative in-season subsistence chinook and
12 chum salmon harvest data in a standardized format that they
13 could use to compare with other assessment projects. These
14 were also reported on via the weekly Yukon River Drainage
15 Fishery Association teleconferences. And I think -- I'm
16 pretty sure some of you folks heard those and I would
17 imagine some of you were contacted for fishery information
18 as well or at least certain people in your area. It went
19 on for about 10 weeks to try to cover the chinook summer
20 chum season and it bled into the early part of the fall
21 chum season.

22

23 So far the comments I've received from
24 people have been positive. This information was used by
25 fishery managers throughout the season and they sought it
26 out, especially once we kind of got up and rolling. Since
27 it was a pilot study we had a few bumps to work out. We
28 patterned this after the Kuskokwim in-season harvest
29 assessment program with the help of Mike Coffing who
30 provided training prior to the fishing season starting, to
31 all the folks who were doing the survey work.

32

33 As Ms. Wheeler pointed out last night, we
34 did submit for funding for the 2003 season, it was not
35 recommended for funding but I want to assure you,
36 especially since Mr. Sam showed interest there that we
37 weren't on the funding side for next year, we want to
38 assure that we're going to try to work this in-house again
39 for next year and we also are going to have our ducks in a
40 row and address the TRC's concerns of why we didn't get
41 funded for 2003. We'll have a good shot at getting that
42 proposal in for 2004. That proposal was on my shoulders
43 and I was trying to do it in the middle of in-season as
44 well so it was a lot of late nights to get that in and
45 unfortunately -- we'll keep plugging away at it.

46

47 Since a lot of the folks that helped out on
48 this project and made it possible this summer, all but two
49 of them are in the room right now and I'd like to just kind
50 of personally thank them for the hard work that they did,

00120

1 Patrick Madros, Jr., RIT with the Koyukuk/Nowitna out of
2 Nulato -- well, Edward George isn't here, he was a YRDFA
3 hire. I think I forget to mention that this was a
4 cooperative project with YRDFA. So Edward is a local hire
5 from Nulato. Orville Huntington picked up slack out of
6 Huslia via the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge, he's an RIT with
7 them as well and I'm sure you all know him. Jeff
8 Beyersdorf worked the Galena area. He's a subsistence
9 coordinator, as he said with the Koyukuk/Nowitna and he was
10 kind of the hub coordinator for that Nulato, Huslia
11 information, getting it to me. And Clara Demientieff, RIT
12 with Innoko Refuge she helped out later in the season. And
13 Ted Hamilton was the Fish and Wildlife Service local hire
14 in Emmonak and Roberta Murphy was a YRDFA local hire out of
15 Emmonak.

16
17 So that's all I have. I just wanted to let
18 you know what we did this summer and that we're on track to
19 keep this going if we can if at all possible.

20
21 Thank you. Any questions I'll take.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions for Ray Hander.
24 I guess at least I am still interested and I know a few of
25 the Yukon River residents are still interested in trying to
26 find funding and we would like to keep updated on your
27 findings on that.

28
29 MR. HANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am
30 working up the final report for this season since it was
31 just a one year worth of funding there that was going
32 towards last year. And we will be trying to make sure that
33 this report gets back out into the hands of the users.
34 That's important to us to have further interest in this.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, thank you again Ray.
39 And just for your information Orville has traveled up to
40 Allakaket, Alatna every chance he gets to help us out, you
41 know, we really do appreciate his efforts there, too.
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. HANDER: Yes, I guess, just one
45 addition is that....

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Benedict.

48
49 MR. JONES: Yeah, Benedict Jones, Koyukuk.
50 You know the State do household survey on the fisheries in

00121

1 the summer time, they gave us a calendar and then they
2 collect those. Just last week they collected from Koyukuk
3 area, did they give you an annual data report of the
4 subsistence fishing harvests?

5

6 MR. HANDER: Yes. That's put out on an
7 annual basis. I know like the 2001 report from Audra
8 Brase, she's the assistant fall season manager. She works
9 with Fred Bue. She's in charge of that program and she --
10 I would imagine it will be next spring before that report
11 comes out. And I guess I'd like to take a minute here to
12 make sure that the project that I just talked about here is
13 not -- it's an in-season project as opposed to the
14 information she's gathering as a post-season survey. And
15 I guess, did that answer your question, I don't know if I
16 was understanding your question right?

17

18 MR. JONES: Yeah. I just want to see the
19 data, the annual reports and see if there's increase in
20 harvest or decrease in harvest, subsistence fishing.

21

22 MR. HANDER: Right. And the other thing,
23 I think once this program continues, as long as the new
24 regulatory fishing schedule is in place, it will help us
25 see the effects of how subsistence harvest relates to that
26 subsistence schedule. That's kind of one of the unknowns
27 about that schedule and so we're hoping that that will add
28 some information there. But I will pass that on to Audra
29 Brase that we get you individually or would you like a
30 report sent to the Council?

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: If you could just deliver it
33 to Vince Mathews office he can deliver it to the Council
34 members.

35

36 MR. HANDER: Oh, that's easy, he's right
37 next door.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
40 Ray Hander. If not, thank you, Ray. Is that all we had in
41 fisheries, Pete?

42

43 MR. DeMATTEO: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair.

44

45 MR. HANDER: That's all from the Federal
46 side of things that I know of.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fisheries?

49

50 MR. HANDER: Yeah.

00122

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's it then, okay.
2 Migratory birds, who's handling this?

3
4 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, I don't believe
5 there's anyone here to represent that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I think that's one of
8 those programs that is covered by local advisory
9 committee's Tanana Chiefs and a few others, I don't see
10 anyone here either.

11
12 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Briefly. It's getting late.

15
16 MR. SMITH: Very briefly. Like Indicated
17 earlier when I was talking to you folks, the Migratory Bird
18 Council has just recently been established within the last
19 year. We've established our Regional Advisory Councils and
20 had a couple of meetings last year and we're still in the
21 process of working out the procedures and policies of the
22 Council. So it's really kind of in a state of turmoil
23 right now. But we have a meeting coming up here next week
24 that I'll be attending. Hopefully we can establish some
25 guidelines and procedures for the relationships with the
26 Fish and Wildlife Service. We're not real sure how that is
27 going to work yet.

28
29 The Migratory Bird Council operates under
30 a different set of laws, the International Treaties that
31 they've signed and the protocol that allows for the spring
32 hunts in Alaska. How those things are going to work and
33 how it's going to work with Fish and Wildlife Service
34 hasn't quite been ironed out yet. But I do know that they
35 anticipate doing a lot of the migratory bird survey data,
36 harvest information and stuff of that nature. That
37 information is going to be needed in the future to
38 establish, of course, bag limits and seasons and species
39 lists.

40
41 But once again, it's still is in the
42 formative states. Hopefully it will come together really
43 quickly and I think that -- I think we're in the beginning
44 of doing that. We are developing some survey methodology
45 right now for migratory birds, which is an interesting
46 process, I might add, you know, developing a survey. I
47 mean the stratifications and all this stuff that I'm not
48 real familiar with but I'm sure I'll pick it up.

49
50 But again, Micky sits on the advisory

00123

1 council. Again, I look forward to working with you folks
2 in regards to this because, of course, a lot of these
3 things are going to overlap and I think that it's -- I
4 think that I'll be -- I mean I'll just personally be
5 reporting it, if not officially be reporting to you guys on
6 our activities and what we hope to be doing with that.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike. Keep in
11 limbo, we just recently got recognized -- I mean legalized
12 for our spring hunt after thousands of years.

13

14 National Park Service. I saw Hollis
15 Twitchell here earlier. Parks and Preserves. Regional
16 Office. Other agencies, groups. We're getting better.
17 After we wore them down last night. The next item on the
18 agenda then is wildlife topics -- Polly, you're taking over
19 for Pete?

20

21 MS. WHEELER: Yeah, I'm the new Pete, but
22 don't get used to it because it's just for the next hour
23 and a half so bear with me while I muddle along. I think
24 Pete handed out a list of the -- maybe he didn't -- the
25 wildlife regulatory changes for the Western Interior
26 region, did he hand that out to you?

27

28 (Pause)

29

30 MS. WHEELER: Okay.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have some proposals to
33 go over, too?

34

35 MS. WHEELER: Yeah, excuse me, Mr. Chair.
36 Again, Polly Wheeler for the record, I'm sitting in for
37 Pete while he goes and takes care of some personal
38 business.

39

40 There has been one proposal submitted to
41 date, it was submitted by Josh Olin. It's for moose in
42 Units 21(D) and 24. The regulation that Mr. Olin wants
43 changed is to not allow any guided or trophy hunting on
44 Federal lands within the Koyukuk River drainage from its
45 mouth to the headwaters which is a portion of Unit 21(D)
46 and 24.

47

48 I don't know if you want me to read the
49 rest of the why he wants the regulation changed or what the
50 change would be on wildlife populations for the record.

00124

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have enough Staff here
2 to cover handling these proposals -- handling this
3 proposal?

4
5 MS. WHEELER: Well, this is just a propo --
6 this is the only proposal that's been received to date by
7 the Federal program.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I was just wondering
10 because we have a procedure that we go through to handle
11 these proposals. Do we -- Ida.

12
13 MS. HILDEBRAND: I'll just talk to Polly
14 for a minute.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

17
18 (Pause)

19
20 MS. WHEELER: Right. This is just a
21 proposal, it hasn't been analyzed yet. It's been just
22 newly submitted to the Federal system. At the winter board
23 meetings there will be the analysis before you, so this is
24 just an informational thing as much as anything else, Mr.
25 Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I think it would be
28 appropriate at that time so we could have more people
29 present plus the hunt in that area just got completed
30 recently so I think it would be appropriate to defer this
31 proposal until the March meeting.

32
33 MS. WHEELER: Yeah.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

36
37 MR. REAKOFF: At this time I have two
38 proposals that I would like to submit under the Western
39 Interior Regional Council. One deals with increasing the
40 bag limit for hunting wolves in Unit 24 from five to 15
41 wolves. And then another proposal to increase the bag
42 limit for wolverine to five instead of one wolverine.

43
44 This is primarily because in the Gates of
45 the Arctic Park, the Park Service's interpretation of
46 shooting wolves on a trapping license is that you can't
47 shoot a wolf under a trapping license so we have to change
48 the hunting bag limits to reflect what would be -- what
49 people would normally take, you know, if they were just
50 shooting wolves and wolverines just incidental to trapping.

00125

1 And so I'd like to submit these two
2 proposals from the Western Interior Council.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: And then we would then
5 deliberate these in the March meeting?

6
7 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any objections. If
10 not, we'll go ahead and submit it under Western Interior's
11 heading. Anything further on wildlife that you see, Polly?

12
13 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, there's agenda
14 item number IX(B)(2), the proposals to align Federal
15 regulations and State regulations and that's the handout
16 that I just gave you and I can go through it for you just
17 for your information. I have more copies if you need
18 another copy.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, I found it. Go ahead.

21
22 MS. WHEELER: Okay, Mr. Chair, on the left-
23 hand side there's the new State regulations that came out
24 of the March Board of Game meeting that was held here in
25 Fairbanks. And on the right-hand column there is the
26 existing Federal regulations. You can see for the first
27 two, the first one being moose in 19(A) and the second one
28 being moose in 19(C), the new State regulation for moose in
29 19(A) is one bull, the season is February 1 to 5, for moose
30 in 19(C) it's one bull with the season being September 1 to
31 20. On the Federal side the regulations are for 19(A) one
32 moose with the season being February 1 to 10 and for 19(C)
33 it's one bull with the season being September 1 to October
34 10. The trend clearly is that there is some conservation
35 concerns in 19(A) and (C) and so the State Board of Game
36 scaled back on the seasons a little bit. So again, this is
37 something you may just want to be aware of, you may want to
38 develop some proposals along these lines.

39
40 The next three are for coyote. Coyote in
41 Unit 19, the new State regulation is for 10, the season
42 being August 10 to April 30 for Unit 19. And the limit is
43 10 with no more than two being taken before October 1. I'm
44 sorry, the existing Federal season is 10 with no more than
45 two being taken before October 1 and the season is
46 September 1 to April 30. Similarly, for coyote in 21 and
47 coyote in 24. So the latter three would really be
48 considered housekeeping proposals, aligning the regulations
49 possibly.

50

00126

1 And then as far as miscellaneous changes
2 go, Mr. Chair, the new State regulation for wolf in 19 is
3 currently more liberal than the Federal regulations. This
4 is under miscellaneous changes below the moose and coyote.
5 Now, according to State regulation you may shoot wolves
6 from a stopped snowmachine but under Federal regulations
7 you may not. That's in Unit 19.

8
9 For brown bear in 21(D), the State
10 regulation is also more liberal, it's one bear per year
11 versus the Federal regulation which is one bear every four
12 years.

13
14 And then the latter two are issues that
15 this Council has dealt with over the past few years anyway,
16 dealing with meat on the bone requirements. At the last
17 Board of Game meeting the State Board of Game passed a meat
18 on the bone salvage requirements for Units 21 and 24.
19 Currently under Federal regulations there is no meat on the
20 bone requirement. And then for caribou in Unit 24 there is
21 a meat on the bone requirement and under Federal regulation
22 there is not.

23
24 So those are the -- just a comparison of
25 the new State regs versus existing Federal regs.

26
27 Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was there any action needed
30 at this time?

31
32 MS. WHEELER: My advisor is coming up to
33 help me here, Mr. Chair, thank you.

34
35 (Pause)

36
37 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, as I understand
38 it, if you want proposals developed to align the
39 regulations or whatever your wishes may be you direct the
40 coordinator, who I'm only acting for at this point in time
41 and then the coordinator will develop the proposals to get
42 back for your review.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. I would then direct
45 our coordinator to go ahead and develop proposals for all
46 the miscellaneous changes right off the bat. And do we
47 have any feelings from the top one, the new State regs or
48 can that wait?

49
50 Jack.

00127

1 MR. REAKOFF: If at all possible I would
2 like to see alignment of Federal and State seasons so
3 there's the least amount of confusion to the subsistence
4 users. So I think that all of these should be aligned --
5 submitted for alignment. We can mull over whether they
6 should be aligned. But they should be submitted for a
7 proposal to see if it's worthy for alignment.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack, for that
10 clarification. I think that we do need to submit them
11 before we can even deliberate anyway. So is that the
12 general consent from the Council.

13

14 (Council nods affirmatively)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Benedict.

17

18 MR. JONES: Yeah, on the miscellaneous,
19 under the middle Yukon Advisory Committee, we submitted
20 this one bear per year to -- that's to control predator
21 control so that's why we put this in for one bear every
22 year, one brown bear every year.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Is
25 there consent then from the Council to develop proposals
26 for all these?

27

28 (Council nods affirmatively)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Okay, we'll see that
31 in March. Okay, wildlife topics, did we have anything
32 more?

33

34 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, under Item
35 IX(B)(3), it's my understanding that Vince, your real
36 coordinator, not your acting or your acting, acting
37 coordinator, put in these proposals just because there's a
38 potential that they had been discussed by the Council at a
39 previous meeting and so this may -- the Council may want to
40 discuss whether or not proposals along these lines should
41 be submitted and -- or should be developed for your review
42 in addition to these other proposals that you just directed
43 him to develop.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I don't know about the
46 wording because Vince isn't here. But potential proposals,
47 so I think that all we can do is go ahead and have him
48 draft these proposals and bring it before us in our March
49 meeting. How does that sound with the Council? Consent.

50

00128

1 (Council nods affirmatively)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. And under C, wildlife
4 planning efforts, we covered that with Randy yesterday.
5 Does that conclude our wildlife topics?

6

7 MS. WHEELER: Yes, it does, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Annual report. Do we
10 have some more items to submit on our annual report? Go
11 ahead, Jack.

12

13 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I enumerated my
14 concerns, I would like to see them incorporated into the
15 annual report. And those concerns are the low percentage
16 of female chinook that are reaching the spawning grounds.

17

18 And the commercial openings that are
19 targeting up river stocks.

20

21 And I would also like to highlight the BLM
22 guide area problem no guide areas, no restrictions on
23 numbers of guides in BLM lands.

24

25 And the enforcement presence decline in
26 Unit 24 within the Western Interior Region. And the need
27 for BLM, US Fish and Wildlife, Park Service enforcement
28 presence, with the lack of State presence.

29

30 And the moose telemetry, moose movement
31 study, telemetry study in northern Unit 24, Upper Koyukuk.

32

33 Also during our lunch break, I wrote sort
34 of a draft letter to the BLM on some of those issues and I
35 can read this and we could submit that to the new regional
36 director of the BLM if you'd like me to.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you, Jack. We
39 will go into that. Yeah, you had a question Polly?

40

41 MS. WHEELER: I caught all -- I need your
42 second point, yeah, if you could read me your second point.
43 I got your concerns over the low percentage of female
44 chinook making it to the spawning grounds. The BLM guide
45 area. Enforcement presence decline in Western Interior
46 Region and the need for an increased enforcement presence.
47 And the moose movement telemetry study in the Northern
48 Koyukuk.

49

50 MR. REAKOFF: That's it.

00129

1 MS. WHEELER: Oh, that's all, I thought I
2 missed one.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Go ahead, Ida.

5
6 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 Excuse me, in reference to Polly's question to Jack and his
8 statements, the one that she was thinking she missed out
9 was that the commercial openings are targeting up river
10 chinook and your concern about that as well.

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida.

15
16 MS. WHEELER: Thanks.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, if I read this agenda
19 right, we are just developing our review and topics that we
20 want to incorporate into our annual report which we will
21 submit in March, right, Polly?

22
23 MS. WHEELER: That's correct, Mr. Chair.
24 This is a ways a way, it's just to start thinking about
25 topics and ideas that you'll want in your annual report.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Resubmit the whole
28 thing as it was plus the new additions that Jack wants on
29 there and we want on there and then we could finalize it in
30 March, right? Would that then be legal, the way to go?

31
32 MS. WHEELER: Yes, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, do you want to hear
35 Jack's letter to the BLM director that we can submit? Do
36 you want that letter submitted as is or just general.....

37
38 MR. REAKOFF: It's just sort of a
39 guideline, it could be cleaned up by our coordinator.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead, read it out
42 loud.

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: This would be to the Regional
45 Director of the BLM. The Western Interior Regional
46 Advisory Council has identified three issues that affect
47 subsistence resources on the BLM lands in the Western
48 Interior of Alaska.

49
50 1. The Federal lands under National Park

00130

1 Service Preserve and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge control
2 have selection process for commercial hunting guide areas.
3 The selections of qualified guides on these lands have
4 allowed these managers to have quality controlled harvest.

5
6 The State and the BLM lands do not have
7 controlled guide numbers in areas and have a free for all
8 system that is leading to overharvest scenarios for sheep,
9 moose and bears.

10
11 A policy change is necessary on BLM lands
12 to have a limited guide selection process as other Federal
13 agencies have in Alaska.

14
15 2. The BLM, along with U.S. Fish and
16 Wildlife, National Park Service are going to have to have
17 more enforcement presence for hunting regulations. The
18 State of Alaska Fish and Wildlife Protection budget has
19 been significantly reduced. There was a noticeable decline
20 in the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Protection presence this
21 year.

22
23 With State budget constraints, the
24 protection presence by BLM and other Federal agencies is
25 imperative.

26
27 3. There is a biological concern regarding
28 escalating harvest of moose in northern Unit 24. There is
29 a need for data on movements of moose to assess whether the
30 harvest are sustainable. The BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
31 and the State should collaborate on a telemetry study for
32 moose in the upper Koyukuk drainage.

33
34 And that's the end, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. I would then request
37 that this be submitted to our regional coordinator and
38 dealt with to the -- to be mailed out or presented to the
39 appropriate agencies but directed at the new BLM Director,
40 right?

41
42 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Let that be noted on
45 the record.

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: I would also like that carbon
48 copied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and National Park
49 Service also.

50

00131

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Got that Tina.

2

3 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that a consent item from
6 the Council?

7

8 (Council Nods affirmatively)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. It's getting close,
11 might as well keep going. Elections.

12

13 As you all know, our Vice Chair is Ray
14 Collins, our Secretary is Jack Reakoff and myself as Chair
15 are all due up for reappointment. At this time we do not
16 know who if we will be reappointed or not so you could --
17 you could hold elections any way you see fit but I just
18 wanted to make that clear that we are due up for
19 reappointment and we don't know if we are going to be
20 reappointed but we can hold elections, new ones if you
21 want; what's the pleasure of the Board?

22

23 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, when is your
24 date for reappointment?

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's usually January,
27 February, right Polly -- oh, Don Rivard's coming up.

28

29 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard, Office of
30 Subsistence Management, Mr. Chair. That timing is about
31 right. It should be -- actually you should know, hopefully
32 within December sometime. The nomination packets are going
33 to Staff Committee for their review next week and then it
34 will be on to the Board and then on to Washington, D. C.,
35 so with the Griles' letter and the response to all that and
36 the change over in how the Councils will be made up, all
37 that nomination package stuff got kind of held up. So this
38 is kind of an anomaly this year. Next year, hopefully, it
39 will be back on track and these kind of things get done by
40 April, hopefully of each year. So they're still in the
41 process and hopefully everybody will know sometime in
42 December.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Don. Micky.

45

46 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair, if you don't mind
47 I would just entertain a motion of keeping the Chair, the
48 Vice Chair and the Secretary the same until we know the
49 Council situation where they'll let you know if you're
50 going to be on or if you're going to be off. I'd just like

00132

1 to keep it the same until we -- the review is done and I'd
2 just like you to keep it the same if we can. As far as
3 moving things along, speedily, I think that would be the
4 best way to go.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky, was that
7 a motion?

8

9 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

12

13 MR. WALKER: I'll second the motion.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion on the
16 floor to keep the officers the same until reappointment or
17 non-reappointment. Any other questions.

18

19 MR. WALKER: Question.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for,
22 all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

27

28 (No opposing votes)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank you.
31 Meeting. My first choice was, again, Holy Cross, since we
32 cancelled it but we do have a good meeting scheduled, a
33 summit scheduled, moose management summit scheduled for
34 Aniak and we are sending down a whole bunch of material
35 along with four representatives from the Western Interior
36 Council. And at this time the Chair would like to hear
37 where you want to hold the meeting and I would like to hold
38 the meeting on the March 17th, 18th and 19th, in that
39 window. I believe Vince will be back from training, but at
40 this time I still don't know when the Tanana Chief's
41 Conference is going on. Does anyone know? We don't know
42 when -- when you look at that window thing, we had an
43 updated one given to us that -- when we convened the first
44 day and I can't find it, the windows were open for those
45 dates though and Vince will be back on the 15th, I believe.

46

47 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, if you look behind
48 Tab K, the third page in is the winter 2003 Regional
49 Advisory Council meeting window. And you're correct, the
50 meeting window opens on Tuesday February 8th and closes on

00133

1 Friday, March 21st.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's one on the 19th and
4 20th with a different region and I can't remember which one
5 it was. Benedict.

6

7 MR. JONES: Yeah, TCC has their annual
8 meeting during the winter carnival, too, so we don't want
9 to conflict with their dates.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't want to hold another
12 meeting without Vince, either, it goes fast and smoother
13 when he's here and he won't be back until the 17th, 18th
14 and 19th. So could we have some tentative dates and then
15 change as needed -- we've got more than a few months?

16

17 MR. WALKER: Orville has something.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Orville, do you have your
20 hand up?

21

22 MR. HUNTINGTON: (Shakes head negatively)

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MR. RIVARD: Pardon, Mr. Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Don.

29

30 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair, I have some
31 talking points here on your Regional Council meetings. As
32 you may know or remember, in late August, Mr. Tom Boyd, our
33 director at OSM sent all Council members a letter about
34 also scheduling a year out for your meetings so a year from
35 now, if you could come up with some dates and I believe
36 that's in your book as well, it's the next one, the next
37 page, it should be.

38

39 So one of the reasons why we're doing this
40 now is to have more time to evaluate the schedules for all
41 10 meetings that we hold each year, twice a year and make
42 adjustments accordingly if we need to, just based on Staff
43 being available to be at more than one meeting at a time.
44 And so we'd ask that the Council, today, to also pick your
45 dates for a year from now. And with the idea that we would
46 come back to you in the spring and say, this needs to be
47 adjusted or that needs to be adjusted a little bit and
48 here's the reasons why.

49

50 And I've got a whole bunch of talking

00134

1 points I could just give you the complete briefing if you
2 so choose.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: So if we do nothing then OSM
5 will set the dates for the meetings, is that pretty much
6 what you'd be doing?

7

8 MR. RIVARD: No, that's not the idea. We
9 still want the Councils to set their own dates and to give
10 recommendations on where they would like to go. As you
11 know, you may have heard that we had to adjust some of the
12 meetings this time around and it worked out to everybody's
13 benefit. Originally Eastern Interior was going to meet
14 this week in Beaver and YK was going to meet in Chevak and
15 we, as a Staff, Tom Boyd actually requested that the
16 changes be made to Fairbanks and Bethel respectively so
17 that everybody could get to these places that had to go to
18 both meetings. It would have been impossible to go to
19 Beaver and then to get to Chevak the next day.

20

21 So those kind of things, we just want to be
22 able to have a head's up, we want to be able to see where
23 people would like to attend, what meeting places they want
24 to go to in a year in advance so that when we come back in
25 the spring we can say, here's some of the things that are
26 going on. It will be difficult for Staff to get to this
27 meeting and this meeting and need to adjust the dates or
28 the locations somewhat.

29

30 But it's still with the idea that the
31 Council's would be able to choose with [sic] Tom Boyd
32 having to make other considerations in that -- those
33 choices.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: I know we try to have our
36 meetings out in the villages for, not only for local input
37 but for the distribution of information. But then as you
38 know most of our villages are quite small and it's darn
39 near impossible to house all Federal and State Staff and
40 the Council. And that's what we pretty much ran against --
41 up to on the Holy Cross issue. So anything we do would
42 then be tentative, right, on the meeting place and the
43 date?

44

45 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, you're talking
46 about the one for a year from now?

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Even next March.

49

50 MR. RIVARD: Okay, you haven't chosen yet

00135

1 for the location in March, that's correct, the Western
2 Interior's a little bit unique, in that, it doesn't really
3 have a regional hub like some of the other regions do. And
4 what we're trying to do as the Office of Subsistence
5 Management is encourage more meetings, I think, in regional
6 hubs and again, Western Interior doesn't really have one.
7 So I would just say, you know, make your recommendations on
8 where you want to go this next time around for Western
9 Interior.

10

11 The one that would be tentative would be
12 the one a year from now. And that would get more finalized
13 in your next meeting. So what I am saying is just if you
14 could come up with your recommendations of where you want
15 to go a year from now and the dates as well.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any feelings from the
18 Council.

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Micky.

23

24 MR. STICKMAN: As far as the March meeting,
25 since that's the time we're going to be reviewing the
26 proposals -- since we have a proposal for the driftnet area
27 extension, I think I would suggest Galena as a possible
28 place to have that meeting since that's the place we would
29 be able to get the most input on that proposal anyway.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any other sites.
32 Suggestions. Don.

33

34 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, following up with
35 Micky's comments, that fisheries proposal will come before
36 your Council a year from now, the next fisheries cycle,
37 you're talking about the driftnet one?

38

39 MR. STICKMAN: (Nods affirmatively)

40

41 MR. RIVARD: So you would be considering
42 that and that would be a good time to have people there to
43 provide testimony and whatever so that might be the time to
44 have your location somewhere around Galena or Nulato or
45 wherever you decide to have that. But March you still
46 wouldn't be taking up that issue.

47

48 MR. STICKMAN: So you're talking about the
49 proposals that we're talking about today are going to be a
50 year from now so that would be on the next page then?

00136

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

2

3 MR. RIVARD: Yes. And maybe I'm causing
4 more confusion than not. I would suggest you go ahead and
5 make your decision where you want to go in March, get that
6 taken care of and then let's talk about the next meeting,
7 the next fisheries cycle meeting. The one in March you're
8 going to be dealing with these wildlife proposals that I
9 think Polly just spoke to you about as well as others, new
10 ones that come up.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

13

14 MR. REAKOFF: I would suggest that the
15 February/March window meetings be held in Aniak because of
16 all the user -- moose summit and all the user conflicts
17 down in that area plus we haven't had a meeting in the
18 southern part of the Western Interior for a while now. And
19 then maybe the next one up at Galena.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would that be acceptable to
22 the Council. Our March meeting in Aniak and
23 September/October meeting in Galena for the fisheries
24 cycle.

25

26 MR. RIVARD: Does the Council want to go
27 ahead and choose dates for next year, a year from now?

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tentative dates, again, I
30 would like to see Vince present and that would be 17th,
31 18th or somewhere around there. Could you find out when he
32 would be available?

33

34 MR. RIVARD: Are we still speaking about a
35 year from now and not March?

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Which one?

38

39 MR. RIVARD: Okay, March -- I believe he
40 will be available for that March 17th meeting. He sent a
41 letter to you, I don't remember the dates that he's going
42 to be gone in March but I can check on that when I get back
43 to the office and give you a call early next week.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd appreciate it. And I
46 think the reason I picked those dates was I had a meeting
47 window, one that was filled out on the other regions and
48 Eastern is asking us when we're meeting, too, they want to
49 know our dates so again, this would only be tentative,
50 again. Any particular dates that's preferable because we

00137

1 do have a lot of conflicting meetings in March, YRDFA,
2 Eastern, YK, Tanana Chiefs, Doyon. It would be these dates
3 -- these dates would be tentative.

4

5 When these windows open and close are they
6 permanently opened or I mean permanently closed?

7

8 MR. RIVARD: I'm not quite sure what you
9 mean by permanently but this is the.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are we locked out if we
12 don't have a meeting by these dates?

13

14 MR. RIVARD: Well, the end dates are pretty
15 well firm because of what happens after all these Council
16 meetings, all the processing that has to go on to get to
17 the next stage, such as preparing for the Staff Committee
18 meeting that follows about a month after all the meetings
19 are over. So that last date is a firm date for all
20 practical purposes. So the earlier dates, there might be
21 some room for movement but, again, there's also preparation
22 time for everything as well.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does anyone have a copy of
25 that meeting schedule, the windows? There was one already
26 set up with some Council's already signed off on some of
27 these weeks and I just can't find it.

28

29 MR. RIVARD: Well, Mr. Chair, I think you
30 can go ahead and set your dates that you would like to do.
31 We try to not have any more than -- well, ideally no more
32 than two meetings per week with the Councils altogether but
33 sometimes there's three and even we've had four in one week
34 which, again, we try to avoid.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the pleasure of the
37 Council? Any particular dates, we already got a location.
38 Two days, 18th or 19th or 17th and 18th, preferably 18th
39 and 19th that gives us the travel on the 17th and 20th.

40

41 MR. WALKER: Monday is the 17th?

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that will be fine.

44

45 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

48

49 MR. REAKOFF: It's my personal feeling that
50 on these lower Western areas that if we could charter from

00138

1 Fairbanks to Aniak, it may be cheaper for the Office of
2 Subsistence Management but we spend two extra days
3 traveling when we go to Anchorage and have to spend the
4 night. The savings is minuscule compared to our -- we
5 don't get paid to go to these meetings, we're not
6 complaining about that, but the extra days of sitting
7 around in a hotel in Anchorage are fairly annoying. So if
8 we could go directly on a charter from Fairbanks, from the
9 northern part here, that would be -- that would make that
10 a lot easier and a lot better. I mean we've done that
11 before and I would like to see that when we go down to Holy
12 Cross and Aniak and down that way, that if we flew directly
13 down there after coming into Fairbanks from our regional
14 areas, that that would -- if at all possible, I'd like to
15 see that.

16

17 MR. RIVARD: We will consider it. That's
18 all I can promise you for now. I mean I can't guarantee
19 that that will happen but we will consider it just like we
20 try to do every time -- we started considering it this time
21 for your meeting and it got -- it was a little bit late in
22 the process when Vince brought that idea up to me again and
23 so this gives us plenty of lead time to look into that so
24 we will consider it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I've got the
27 meeting windows for winter 2003, there's only one meeting,
28 Kodiak/Aleutians at Old Harbor on the 19th and 20th,
29 Southcentral in Anchorage March 4 through 7th. So are we
30 still comfortable with Aniak the 17th, 18th, 19th?

31

32 (Council nods affirmatively)

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. September meeting --
35 October 2003. Go ahead, Jack, these will be just tentative
36 so just throw out some dates.

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: Well, this -- up through
39 September 25th is just not -- that's moose season I just
40 can hardly even afford to take off time during that time.
41 Anything after the week of the 29th is fine with me.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: So would it be okay with the
44 Council to set tentative dates of 30th and October 1st,
45 give us a Monday and Thursday to travel to Galena. This is
46 just for the time being, tentative. Is that okay Benedict?

47

48 MR. JONES: Yeah.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, that's tentative and

00139

1 that gives you both of our meeting dates. Is that fine?

2 Angela.

3

4 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chair, could Robert
5 and Carl and I charter up to Galena, it would make a lot
6 more sense than for us to go to Anchorage and then go to
7 Galena and for Ray Collins, if he's back on again. Because
8 we did it in the beginning when we first went to Galena,
9 they chartered us up to Galena and we were there in an hour
10 and a half instead of going -- this last time we had to go
11 all the way around and camp in Anchorage and then continue
12 on the next day and it just doesn't make no sense, it's so
13 close.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we also lucked out
16 there, PenAir broke down at McGrath, there was a basketball
17 team that was headed and Frontier chartered us right back
18 up instead of going to Anchorage and that makes it a heck
19 of a lot easier and faster. Could you pursue that for
20 Angela, Robert, Carl and Ray's travel for next year? Just
21 pursue that issue of using charters for us.

22

23 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair, I've got it
24 noted and I've got the dates down and the locations for
25 your next two meetings as well.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. The only other
28 thing that we have on the agenda besides closing comments
29 is do we have any specific topics for the joint Regional
30 Council Chairs meeting in December, I believe it's the
31 first week in December? If not, just, you know my number
32 so call, call collect or something, get a hold of Vince if
33 you have any issues that you would like myself to present
34 at the Council Chair's meeting. Just remember Vince's 800
35 number -- the number -- Polly -- Pete's supposed to --
36 Polly is filling in now -- when is Vince coming back, do
37 you have any idea?

38

39 MS. WHEELER: I have no idea, but,
40 obviously not soon enough.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: He should be back, I think
45 it was just a two week training. I think he's been gone
46 for about a week, a week and a half now.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: So Council members closing

00140

1 comments. Anyone want to start -- Benedict.

2

3 MR. JONES: Yeah, this is Benedict Jones,
4 Koyukuk. I got a closing comment. Just recently we had a
5 memorial potlatch in Koyukuk so what we did is we went out
6 bear hunting on our original hunting grounds and Gilbert
7 Huntington, he's a guide and he went down to Washington,
8 D.C., and there were a lot of rumors that Federal is going
9 to close this hunting grounds to subsistence, they want to
10 make a scenic trail. Congressional action is being taken
11 now so we want to be aware that we keep our grandfather
12 hunting rights in this hunting grounds.

13

14 And also the video fishwheel at Rampart, I
15 want to see a time limit on that. I don't want to be daily
16 basis during the fish migration periods because there's
17 been a lot of complaints during our teleconferences last
18 summer that same fish was caught 12 times. So you know,
19 just I think about eight hour period during the heavy run
20 would be a significant time to collect their data on the
21 fishwheel so we would not interrupt their migration. I'd
22 hate to see if I got caught in the fishwheel 10 times I'll
23 be confused too, I wouldn't know which way is up river and
24 down river. So I'd like to have a time limit on that fish
25 video camera, fishwheel operation.

26

27 And another thing I'd like that the Galena
28 office has discovered artifacts on sand dune which is about
29 30 miles north of the Koyukuk River. And this proves that
30 it's old hunting grounds for the Koyukuk, Dalbi River
31 residents area that they discover arrowheads and stone axes
32 on the sand dune area so we want to protect those lands.

33

34 That's our old hunting ground. Because
35 there's a lot of -- in the Kobuk area there's a lot of
36 Athabaskan names for the lakes so we did use back 500 years
37 ago, that we used those hunting grounds in those areas.

38

39 That's all the comment I have.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Micky.

42

43 MR. STICKMAN: I just wanted to thank all
44 the Staff for being here. Without your participation we
45 really couldn't make some of the decisions that we make
46 without your research. So I just wanted to thank you
47 publicly.

48

49 And then the only other one that I have was
50 that I wanted the Council to be aware of was as I go around

00141

1 to different public meetings, either representing the tribe
2 or a representative of the corporation I've been soliciting
3 for proposals to our Council because I feel that the
4 general public, itself, even though they have a lot of
5 opinions they're not voicing them or they're not bringing
6 them forward but they're just -- but I told them as long as
7 they don't write proposals and they just talk among
8 themselves that's all it's going to be, is just talk among
9 themselves so I've been encouraging all the people in the
10 Western Interior regional advisory area to do solicit
11 proposals. So I just wanted the Council to be aware of
12 that.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. I think
15 that when you encourage people to do something that
16 positive it works a heck of a lot better than, like you
17 just said, just talking about it. Jack.

18

19 MR. REAKOFF: Since I don't know if I'm
20 going to be reappointed I just wanted to thank the Federal
21 Subsistence Program for the -- I think that the Federal
22 program is very instrumental in funding a lot of good data
23 gathering and so forth in Alaska. And I want to thank the
24 Staff and I'm glad to see that we have some very good Staff
25 members available for the benefit of this subsistence
26 management.

27

28 And I think we had a very productive
29 meeting. I think the Western Interior Council works real
30 well together. I'm a little reluctant as to how the future
31 Council's, if we get a different mix of members and how the
32 Council would work with diverse understanding of
33 subsistence.

34

35 So I think we had a very good meeting and
36 I'm happy to see all of the Council members that attended
37 and thank you to the Staff and the people who attended the
38 meeting.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, very much, Jack
41 and good luck. Robert.

42

43 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
44 like to thank everybody here for attending. I think it was
45 a very constructive meeting, it had a lot of meaning, a lot
46 of heart. It's kind of we missed Vince here a little bit
47 but I'm glad the wheel here is still turning with Polly
48 here taking over. Thank you, Ida, for kind of giving her
49 a push, too. We'll just wait until March to see what
50 happens to our gentlemen over here, I hope you make it back

00142

1 on.

2

3 Thank you very much.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Robert. Angela.

6

7 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I,
8 too, would like to thank all the Staff that came to our
9 meeting for the last couple days and all the help they've
10 given us.

11

12 My big concern is in the closing comments,
13 Mr. Chair, is am I going home tomorrow, I do not know. We
14 did not have -- I did not have a ticket out of Anchorage,
15 I had to pay my way out of Aniak and I don't know how I'm
16 flying back to Holy Cross tomorrow and if someone could
17 help me out before I leave the building this evening, I
18 would really appreciate it because I don't want to stay
19 here for the rest of my life until the next meeting.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, very much Angela.
22 I think Jack ran into that same problem, too, coming in.
23 Don, would you address that issue?

24

25 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair, Angela, I'll
26 get on the phone right after you're done here and we'll
27 make sure we get that all taken care of. But I think
28 you're all scheduled to fly out tomorrow, are you not --
29 okay, thanks.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. And first
32 of all, I would like to thank Micky and Robert and the rest
33 of the Council members for trust in Ray, Jack and myself by
34 reelecting us as officers. We do not know at this time
35 whether we will be reappointed but to me that means a lot.
36 And it rededicates myself to your pursuits along with your
37 efforts.

38

39 Again, I would like to thank the Council
40 for being there all the way through that evening session
41 last night, I think that's why we are done. But I wanted
42 to do that because I didn't know how far behind we were and
43 I thought that we may have to meet with the Eastern
44 Interior in conjunction with -- I mean remeet with them
45 again and that just never provides enough time anyway. So
46 thanks for attending the evening session along with the
47 Staff that was there. You really brought us a long way in
48 a quick short time because I didn't have a quorum until
49 about 1:00 or 2:00 o'clock yesterday and that's why I
50 called that evening session.

00143

1 Again, it's always a great pleasure to see
2 us all work together, like Jack so ably stated. We do work
3 together for one end and means. I would just like to state
4 that I think the world of the Western Interior Council and
5 its members. I have never seen anyone work against each
6 other, we've always worked together and we got pretty much
7 what we want or we went as far as we could go so I hope
8 this trend continues.

9

10 I'd like to thank you all for serving on
11 this Council.

12

13 In closing, just thank all the Staff for
14 being here with us and bearing with us because like I said,
15 we didn't know where we were going starting out. I excused
16 our Council members and then we had some statewide issues
17 right after that and that's why the evening session.

18

19 Again, thank you all and I think the Chair
20 will entertain a motion to adjourn.

21

22 MR. STICKMAN: Before we adjourn, Mr.
23 Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

26

27 MR. STICKMAN: I just wanted to let the
28 Council know and let you know as the Chair, that if there's
29 a conflict between the March meeting and the TCC
30 Convention, as an E board member I would probably be asked
31 to be excused so I could be at the TCC Convention.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you, Micky. I
34 think there's more than a few of us here that may want to
35 attend or be delegated to attend that TCC Convention so
36 Don, could you keep it in mind that we may have to change
37 the schedule.

38

39 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Is there any
40 way we could find out, even today whether -- I mean we're
41 right here, they would know by now, I would imagine when
42 their meetings are?

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

45

46 MR. RIVARD: Okay.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just get a hold of the front
49 office, they'll let you know.

50

00144

1 MR. RIVARD: Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angela.

4

5 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: We never thank our
6 recorder, she's always here.

7

8 MR. WALKER: Yes.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

11

12 (Applause)

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: She has the hardest job of
15 all of us because the goings on here last night, she had to
16 break down, reset up over at the hotel, break down and
17 reset up over here this morning. Thank you very much Tina.

18

19 The Chair will entertain a motion to
20 adjourn.

21

22 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

23

24 MR. WALKER: So moved.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: So moved.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: All in favor signify by
29 saying aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Everybody moved so there's
34 no need for a second.

35

36 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

00145

CERTIFICATE

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for
8 the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 53
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN
13 INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
14 MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically by Salena Hile on
15 the 9th day of October 2002, beginning at the hour of 9:15
16 o'clock p.m. in Fairbanks, Alaska;

18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct
19 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter
20 transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to
21 the best of our knowledge and ability;

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
24 interested in any way in this action.

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 24th day of
27 October 2002.

32 Joseph P. Kolasinski
33 Notary Public in and for Alaska
34 My Commission Expires: 04/17/04